

Middle School Curriculum Guide 2026-2027



Fort Bend Christian Academy
1201 Lakeview Drive
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Curriculum Guide Overview

This curriculum guide is designed to provide a clear understanding of Fort Bend Christian Academy's Middle School academic program and how it prepares students for both academic success and spiritual growth. All courses and programs are developed within the framework of FBCA's mission as a Christian school, integrating rigorous academics with faith-based learning that nurtures the whole student—mind, body, and spirit. The guide serves as a comprehensive resource for teachers, students, and parents to understand how our middle school experience progresses from grade to grade, building foundational skills while fostering critical thinking, character development, and a biblical worldview.

Table of Contents:

[Fort Bend Christian Academy Mission Statement](#)

[Middle School Philosophy](#)

[Grade Level Overview, Course Requirements, and Electives](#)

- [The 5th Grade Experience](#)
- [The 6th Grade Experience](#)
- [The 7th Grade Experience](#)
- [The 8th Grade Experience](#)

[Middle School Daily Schedule](#)

[Community Time](#)

[Academic Policies](#)

- [Grading Policies](#)
- [Grading Expectations](#)
- [Conduct Grades](#)
- [Conduct Grading Scale](#)
- [Academic Honesty](#)
- [Assessment Communication](#)

- [Test & Quiz Limits](#)
- [Late Work Policy](#)
- [Make Up Work Due to Absence](#)
- [Reassessments](#)
- [Extra Credit](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Co-Curricular Eligibility](#)

[FBCA MS Course of Study](#)

- [Biblical Studies](#)
- [English Language Arts](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Social Studies](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Statement on Teaching of Science, Scientific Theories, and the Origin of Life](#)
- [World Languages](#)
- [Arts & Media](#)
- [Physical Education](#)
- [STEAM and Computer Science](#)

[Technology at FBCA](#)

- [Blackbaud Learning Management System](#)
- [1:1 Ipad Program](#)
- [Artificial Intelligence at FBCA](#)
- [AI Policy](#)

[Library Services](#)

[Standardized Assessments](#)

[Student Services](#)

- [Counseling Services](#)
- [Academic Support](#)

Fort Bend Christian Academy Mission Statement

Fort Bend Christian Academy exists to glorify God through excellence in college preparatory Christian education. It is the mission of Fort Bend Christian Academy to equip students to thrive spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

FBCA Educational Philosophy Statement

At Fort Bend Christian Academy, we believe the most important thing a student can gain is not simply a great education but a deep and growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Our first priority is spiritual formation: helping students know God, love His Word, recognize His truth, and live with a faith that shapes every part of their lives. We desire for each student to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength; to love others as themselves; and to faithfully follow and serve Christ wherever He leads.

Because we believe all truth is God's truth, a relationship with Christ is not separate from learning. It is the foundation for it. We affirm the Bible as the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God. Scripture informs how we understand truth and provides the lens through which every discipline is studied. From the sciences and humanities to the arts and athletics, students are invited to see learning as an opportunity to know, worship, and serve God. We pursue academic distinction not as an end in itself, but as an expression of faithful stewardship.

We believe every student is created in the image of God, uniquely gifted and designed for His purpose. In a community where students are known, loved, and challenged, our teachers cultivate both intellectual curiosity and a love of learning. Through a rigorous college-preparatory education from PreK through 12th grade, students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills as well as creativity, resilience, and the confidence to engage the world with wisdom and conviction. We don't simply prepare students for the next level of education; we help them discover how God has uniquely equipped them and how they can use their lives for His purposes.

We pursue excellence as an expression of faithful stewardship, developing the gifts God has given us, embracing challenge and growth, working with diligence and integrity, thinking deeply and creatively, and using our abilities to serve others. We teach students that excellence is not about perfection, performance, or comparison; it is about faithfully offering their very best in response to what God has entrusted to them. Excellence means learning to persevere through difficulty, lead with humility, pursue what is true and good, and use our gifts not simply for personal achievement but for the glory of God and the good of others.

We believe education is a partnership between school, family, and church. Together, we have the privilege of shaping young men and women who are grounded in Biblical truth, marked by Christ-like character, equipped with knowledge, and compelled by their faith. Our faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees embrace the sacred responsibility of investing in the whole student—mind, heart, character, and soul.

At Fort Bend Christian Academy, our goal is not merely to prepare students to succeed in college or a career. Our goal is to help them know Christ deeply, discover their God-given purpose, pursue excellence, love others, and use their lives to faithfully influence the world for His glory.

Letter from the Head of Middle School

Dear Middle School Families,

Welcome to Middle School at Fort Bend Christian Academy! It is a privilege to partner with you during these formative years in your child's life. Middle school is a remarkable bridge between childhood and young adulthood—a time of discovery, growing independence, and deepening faith. As Head of Middle School, my desire is for each student to feel known, loved, and challenged as we nurture their spiritual, academic, social, and emotional growth in a Christ-centered community.

These years bring new questions, changing friendships, and opportunities for students to discover who they are and how God has gifted them. Our teachers walk alongside students with encouragement and clear expectations, creating a safe, supportive environment where they can ask questions, embrace challenges, and learn from mistakes. Together, we help them build resilience, think critically, and develop a lasting love of learning.

As you explore this curriculum guide, I hope you will see the purpose behind our academic program. Through rigorous coursework that integrates biblical truth across subjects, we encourage students to view the world through the lens of Scripture. We

also help them develop strong study habits, personal responsibility, and problem-solving skills so they can approach high school and the years ahead with confidence.

At the heart of this work is our desire for students to know Christ personally and grow in their faith. Through chapel services, Bible studies, and service opportunities, we encourage them to connect biblical principles to everyday choices. My prayer is that they will grow in their love for God and His Word and discover the joy of using their gifts to serve others.

We are equally intentional about helping students build meaningful relationships and Christ-like character. Programs such as Students Active in Leadership Training (SALT), our House system, and Eagle Time give students opportunities to lead, belong, and contribute to our community. Along the way, we guide them to practice kindness, respect, and integrity and to navigate relationships with grace and wisdom.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child and for partnering with us in this important season. My hope is that each student leaves middle school prepared not only for the next academic step, but also to glorify God and make a difference in the world with confidence, compassion, and conviction. I look forward to walking alongside your family as your child learns, grows, and discovers God's purposes for their life.

In Christ,

Melisa Carroll
Head of Middle School

Grade Level Overview, Course Requirements, and Electives



The 5th Grade Experience

Fifth grade at Fort Bend Christian Academy serves as an important transition year into middle school, providing students with the support and experiences they need to grow in independence and responsibility. Students are introduced to the House System, fostering teamwork, leadership, and school spirit across grade levels. They also participate in Eagle Week, a signature service-learning project each March, where they partner with local organizations such as Lunches of Love to demonstrate faith in action.

A highlight of the year is a field trip to Texas A&M University, where students attend a guest lecture and enjoy interactive physics demonstrations that bring science to life. Opportunities to connect with the larger FBCA community also expand, with Junior Cheer and school sports camps offered as entry points into extracurricular involvement.

Throughout the year, students are guided in learning new middle school expectations, including the responsible use of technology. Each student is issued an iPad that remains on campus, helping them build healthy digital habits while developing accountability in their work. Students also practice self-advocacy, learning to ask questions, seek help, and take ownership of their learning journey—including visiting their teachers during office hours when additional support is needed. To further support this transition, fifth graders participate in several weekly experiences during community time. Once a week, they

attend Study Skills taught by our reading and math specialists, equipping them with the organizational and learning strategies needed to meet middle school expectations. They also rotate through the library once a week, where they learn research skills from the librarian, check out books, and take AR quizzes. Additionally, students meet with their advisory group once a week for a social-emotional learning (SEL) lesson grounded in a Biblical worldview, helping them grow in character, relationships, and faith.

Together, these experiences shape fifth grade into a year of growth—academically, spiritually, and socially—making it an exciting bridge between lower school and middle school life.

5th Grade Required Courses

- Bible 5
- English Language Arts 5
- Math 5
- Ancient Civilizations 5
- Science 5
- Physical Education 5

5th Grade Enrichment Rotation

Fifth-grade students rotate through four nine-week enrichment courses, giving them the opportunity to explore subjects that connect to elective pathways they may pursue later in middle school:

- Music Appreciation
- Art Appreciation
- Computer Enrichment
- Spanish Enrichment

The 6th Grade Experience

Sixth grade at Fort Bend Christian Academy is a year of increased independence and opportunity. Students deepen their academic skills while continuing to build character, confidence, and faith. With more choices in electives, extracurricular activities, and responsibilities, they begin to explore their God-given interests and talents in greater depth.

Students live out FBCA's mission of service during Eagle Week by volunteering at the Houston Food Bank, and their appreciation for literature and the arts is strengthened through a visit to Main Street Theater.

Sixth graders also take on new responsibilities in technology by bringing their iPads home for the first time and practicing digital stewardship. They may join official FBCA sports teams, contribute to school spirit, or serve on the Middle School Praise Team, using their gifts to lead worship during weekly chapel.

These experiences make sixth grade a year of growth and preparation—academically, socially, and spiritually—equipping students to thrive throughout middle school and beyond.

6th Grade Required Courses

- Bible 6
- English Language Arts 6
- Math 6 *or* Advanced Math 6
- World Studies 6
- Science 6

6th Grade Elective Choices

Students select **two year-long** electives from the following:

- Art 6
- Band
- Introduction to Spanish
- P.E.
- STEAM 6
- Computer Science Fundamentals
- Intermediate Musical Theatre (*by audition*)
- Advanced Musical Theatre (*by audition*)
- Praise Team (instrumental) (*by audition*)

The 7th Grade Experience

Seventh grade at Fort Bend Christian Academy is a year of transition and growth, marked by increased academic rigor and greater independence. Students take more responsibility for managing their work and deadlines, developing resilience and confidence as they prepare for the challenges of eighth grade and high school.

A wider range of electives, athletics, and extracurricular activities allow students to explore their interests and talents. Leadership and creativity are encouraged through Praise Team, where students lead worship during weekly chapel, and through theatre, with opportunities such as the Junior Theater Festival (JTF).

Hallmark experiences enrich learning and build community. In December, students attend the Alley Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol*, connecting literature to live performance. In the spring, the Texas Tour—a three-day, two-night trip—takes students to landmarks including the San Jacinto Monument, George Bush Presidential

Library, the Alamo, River Walk, Texas Capitol, Bob Bullock Museum, and local caverns. These shared experiences bring history to life while strengthening friendships and class unity.

Together, these academic challenges, extracurricular opportunities, and milestone trips make seventh grade a pivotal year of discovery and confidence-building.

7th Grade Required Courses

- Bible 7
- English 7 or Advanced English 7
- Math 7 or Advanced Pre-Algebra
- Texas History 7
- Science 7

7th Grade Elective Choices

Students may choose one of the following combinations:

- Two full-year courses
- One full-year course and two semester courses
- Four semester courses

Full-Year Electives

- Band
- Computer Science Discovery
- Intermediate Spanish
- STEAM 7
- Theatre
- Yearbook (*application required*)
- Intermediate Musical Theatre (*by audition*)
- Advanced Musical Theatre (*by audition*)
- Praise Team (*by audition*)

Semester Electives

- Art 7 (*Fall or Spring*)
- Health & Fitness (*Fall or Spring*)

The 8th Grade Experience

Eighth grade at Fort Bend Christian Academy is the culminating year of middle school, intentionally designed to prepare students for success in FBCA's Upper School. Academically, it is the most rigorous year yet, with opportunities to earn high school credit through Integrated Physics & Chemistry (IPC) and World Language classes. Students also take the PSAT and begin meeting with Upper School college counselors, who introduce them to the academic planning process. In February, the college counseling team visits 8th grade classrooms to present 9th grade course options and later returns to guide students through course selections, while a parent meeting during this season ensures families feel well-prepared for the transition into Upper School.

Students continue to enjoy a wide range of electives, athletics, and fine arts opportunities, building leadership, teamwork, and confidence while balancing greater independence with intentional support from teachers and mentors. A highlight of the year is the 8th Grade Retreat, a week-long camp experience where students step away from daily routines for outdoor adventure, shared challenges, and team-building activities that

foster perseverance, responsibility, and faith while creating class bonds and friendships they carry into Upper School. In late May, after the school year ends, students may also take part in the optional Washington, D.C. trip, a capstone tradition chaperoned by Middle School administration and 8th grade teachers that brings history and civics to life while fostering community and lasting memories. Together, these experiences equip students to enter FBCA's Upper School with confidence and purpose.

8th Grade Required Courses

- Bible 8
- English 8 *or* Advanced English 8
- Pre-Algebra (*middle school credit*) *or* Advanced Algebra I (*high school credit*)
- American History 8
- Integrated Physics & Chemistry (IPC) (*high school credit*)

8th Grade Elective Choices

Students may choose one of the following combinations:

- Two full-year courses
- One full-year course and two semester courses
- Four semester courses

Full-Year Electives

- Band
- Computer Science Discovery
- Intermediate Spanish
- Advanced Theatre
- Spanish I (*high school credit*)
- American Sign Language I (*high school credit*)
- Yearbook (*application required*)
- Intermediate Musical Theatre (*by audition*)
- Advanced Musical Theatre (*by audition*)
- Praise Team (*by audition*)

Semester Electives

- Art 8 (*Fall or Spring*)
- Health & Fitness (*Fall or Spring*)
- Communications (*Fall or Spring*)

Middle School Daily Schedule

Fort Bend Christian Academy Middle School operates on a seven-day rotating schedule. Rather than repeating the same classes at the same times each day, students follow a sequence of "Day 1" through "Day 7." After Day 7, the cycle restarts with Day 1.

Each school day begins with Office Hours (7:45 – 8:30 a.m.). During this time, students may meet with teachers for extra help, enrichment, make-up work, or quiet study. Office Hours are designed to provide flexibility and individualized support, ensuring that students can seek assistance, strengthen skills, and build strong relationships with their teachers.

The academic day runs from 8:35 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and includes five class periods, Community Time, Study Hall, and Lunch. Core classes and electives rotate through

different times of day, so no subject is always scheduled at the same time. This approach provides balance, keeps students engaged, and allows time for chapel, advisory, assemblies, and class meetings during Community Time.

To better serve the developmental needs of our students, the middle school day includes two lunch periods. Fifth and sixth graders have A Lunch (12:30–1:00 p.m.) followed by Study Hall (1:05–1:20 p.m.), while seventh and eighth graders have an extended fifteen minutes of class time for in-depth learning, class discussion, and labs (12:30–12:45 p.m.) followed by B Lunch (12:50–1:20 p.m.). Although seventh and eighth graders do not have a Study Hall built into their lunch block, they receive two dedicated Study Halls each week during Community Time. Across all grade levels, Study Hall provides a consistent, structured time for students to begin homework, organize their materials, read independently, or seek brief support, helping them develop the time-management and self-direction skills essential for academic success.

The rotating schedule is designed to:

- Provide equal instructional time for every class.
- Add variety to students' daily routine while giving natural breaks to support focus and learning.
- Balance homework and assessments more evenly across the cycle.
- Build in regular Study Hall to reinforce strong work habits and independent learning.
- Weave opportunities for academic learning and spiritual growth throughout the school day.

5th & 6th Grade MS Daily Schedule

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
7:45 - 8:30	Office Hours						
8:35 - 9:35	A	F	D	B	G	E	C
9:40 - 10:40	B	G	E	C	A	F	D
10:40 - 11:25	Community Time						
11:30 - 12:25	C	A	F	D	B	G	E
12:30 - 1:00	A Lunch 5/6						
1:05-1:20	Study Hall 5/6						
1:25 - 2:25	D	B	G	E	C	A	F
2:30 - 3:30	E	C	A	F	D	B	G

7th & 8th Grade MS Daily Schedule

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
7:45 - 8:30	Office Hours						
8:35 - 9:35	A	F	D	B	G	E	C
9:40 - 10:40	B	G	E	C	A	F	D
10:40 - 11:25	Community Time						
11:30 - 12:25	C	A	F	D	B	G	E
12:30 - 12:45	Extended Block 7/8						
12:50 - 1:20	B Lunch 7/8						
1:25 - 2:25	D	B	G	E	C	A	F
2:30 - 3:30	E	C	A	F	D	B	G

Community Time

Community Time is a cornerstone of the middle school experience at Fort Bend Christian Academy. Each day from 10:40–11:25 a.m., the middle school pauses for a dedicated block focused on mentorship, community, and personal growth. This consistent midday gathering ensures that students are known, supported, and encouraged throughout their middle school years, while also providing a natural pause to reset and refocus before afternoon classes. What happens during Community Time varies by day and by grade level. Two days each week bring the entire middle school together:

- **Wednesday – Chapel:** The Middle School Praise Team leads students in worship, followed by a message from a school staff member, local church leader, or guest speaker.
- **Friday – House Day:** Students gather with their House for competitions, service projects, and challenges that foster leadership, camaraderie, and school spirit.

On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, students meet with a grade-level advisor and a small group of classmates. These three days include an Advisory Lesson focused on social-emotional learning, character, and leadership through a biblical worldview, along with additional grade-specific experiences described below.

5th Grade

Fifth-grade Community Time is structured to ease the transition into middle school. On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, students rotate in small groups through three focused experiences:

- **Advisory Lesson** – Students engage in lessons on social-emotional learning, character, and leadership, taught through a biblical worldview to help them grow as followers of Christ in their relationships, choices, and daily lives. Lessons regularly include small-group discussion.
- **Study Skills** – This course introduces students to the foundational habits of successful middle schoolers, including time management, note-taking, organization of materials, and effective preparation for assessments.
- **Library & Research Skills** – This course teaches students how to locate credible sources, evaluate information, and use library and digital resources with confidence, building research skills they will rely on throughout their academic career.

5th Grade					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group 1	Advisory Lesson	Study Skills	Middle School Chapel	Library Skills	Middle School House Day
Group 2	Study Skills	Library Skills		Advisory Lesson	
Group 3	Library Skills	Advisory Lesson		Study Skills	

6th Grade

Sixth grade Community Time builds on the foundation established in fifth grade while introducing new tools for academic independence. On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, students rotate in small groups through three focused experiences:

- **Advisory Lesson:** Building on the fifth-grade foundation, lessons address the unique challenges of sixth grade with continued focus on social-emotional learning, character, and leadership through a biblical worldview. Lessons regularly include small-group discussion.
- **Digital Learning:** This course prepares students to navigate today's technology with wisdom and integrity, covering AI literacy, digital wellness, digital citizenship, and proficiency with Microsoft 365 and other tools commonly used across middle school classrooms.
- **Study Hall:** Students use this structured period to complete homework, organize their materials, prepare for upcoming assessments, or seek help from peers and teachers as they manage a growing academic workload.

6th Grade					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group 1	Advisory Lesson	Study Hall	Middle School Chapel	Digital Learning	Middle School House Day
Group 2	Study Hall	Digital Learning		Advisory Lesson	
Group 3	Digital Learning	Advisory Lesson		Study Hall	

7th & 8th Grade

Seventh and eighth grade Advisory reflects students' increased independence and academic demands:

- **Monday – Advisory Lesson:** Designed for upper middle schoolers, lessons continue to address social-emotional learning, character, and leadership through a biblical worldview, preparing students for the responsibilities and decisions ahead. Lessons regularly include small-group discussion within the advisory.
- **Tuesday & Thursday – Study Hall:** Two structured periods each week give students dedicated time to complete coursework, prepare for assessments, and develop the self-direction needed for the demands of upper middle school and beyond.

7th & 8th Grade				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Advisory Lesson	Study Hall	Middle School Chapel	Study Hall	Middle School House Day

Academic Policies

At Fort Bend Christian Academy, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that encourages both academic growth and Christ-like character in every student. In middle school, we help students take increasing ownership of their learning while building habits of responsibility, resilience, and curiosity. Through balanced assessment and intentional instruction, we support each student's progress and promote a love of learning.

The following academic policies provide clarity for students, families, and teachers regarding grading, assessment, and expectations for student progress. These practices are designed to promote consistency, transparency, and a strong partnership between home and school.

Grading Policies:

Middle school students receive academic grades in all courses. Teachers utilize various assessments to evaluate student learning, including classwork, homework, quizzes, tests, essays, projects, and presentations. Grading weights are communicated to students and families through course syllabi and teacher communication.

Academic Grading Scale:

- A: 90–100
- B: 80–89
- C: 75–79
- D: 70–74
- F: 0–69

Formal grading categories include **Major** and **Minor** assignments. Teachers ensure that at least 3 Major and 8 Minor assignments are included in each grading category per quarter. All graded assignments count toward the final average; grades will not be omitted or dropped.

Grading Expectations:

Teachers are expected to return graded work in a timely manner to support student growth and ensure meaningful feedback. Minor assignments—such as daily work and homework—should be graded and entered into the gradebook within two school days. Tests and major assessments should be graded within one week. For extended writing assignments, such as research papers, grades will be returned within three weeks to allow for thoughtful evaluation.

Conduct Grades:

Conduct grades reflect a student's ability to meet classroom behavior expectations, demonstrate Christ-like character, and contribute positively to the learning environment. Conduct grades are assigned in all subjects and elective classes and appear on report cards.

Conduct Grading Scale:

- **E:** Excellent
- **S:** Satisfactory
- **N:** Needs Improvement

Conduct grades are influenced by teacher observations, classroom behavior records, and behavior checks throughout the quarter. An office referral may result in a lower conduct grade. Teachers assess the following behaviors when determining a conduct grade using the following rubric:

Conduct Grade Rubric			
Criteria	Excellent (E)	Satisfactory (S)	Needs Improvement (N)
Kindness	Always demonstrates kind behavior toward teachers, staff, and peers	Usually demonstrates kind behavior toward teachers, staff, and peers	Rarely demonstrates kind behavior toward teachers, staff, and peers
Attitude	Always demonstrates a positive attitude towards class and learning	Usually demonstrates a positive attitude toward class and learning	Frequently demonstrates a negative attitude towards class and learning
Participation	Always contributes willingly and positively to class discussions	Usually participates in class discussions when called upon	Frequently unprepared when called upon and participates negatively.
Respect	Always respectful towards teachers, staff, and peers	Usually respectful towards teachers, staff, and peers	Frequently disrespectful towards teachers, staff, and peers
Responsibility	Consistently completes all assignments on time and comes prepared to class	Usually completes assignments on time and comes prepared to class	Frequently fails to complete assignments on time and comes unprepared
Collaboration	Works exceptionally well in groups, actively supports peers, and encourages cooperation	Works well with others and contributes fairly to group work	Rarely works effectively with others and disrupts group dynamics
Self-Control	Consistently controls behavior, follows directions without reminders, and manages emotions appropriately	Usually controls behavior, follows directions, and manages emotions appropriately	Frequently struggles with controlling behavior, following directions, and managing emotions

Integrity	Always demonstrates honesty and takes responsibility for actions	Usually demonstrates honesty and takes responsibility for actions	Frequently demonstrates dishonesty and refuses to take responsibility for actions
Servant Heart	Always demonstrates an eagerness to serve others with a joyful spirit and actively looks for ways to help others	Usually demonstrates an eagerness to serve others with a joyful spirit and actively looks for ways to help others	Frequently demonstrates a resentful attitude concerning service to others and rarely looks for ways to help others

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to complete all work with integrity and honesty. Teachers provide guidance on how to appropriately use resources and cite sources as developmentally appropriate. Parents are encouraged to support this expectation by fostering honest work habits at home.

Artificial Intelligence (AI):

FBCA teaches students to use AI thoughtfully and with discernment, as a tool that supports learning rather than replaces the God-given ability to reason, create, and communicate. The default for every assignment is AI-free unless a teacher gives specific permission. When AI use is permitted, teachers set clear parameters, and students must disclose their use, cite AI-generated content, and submit a chat log as directed. To protect academic integrity, digital work may be completed in Clarity, a writing tool within Turnitin.com that captures the full version and edit history so teachers can see how the work developed from start to finish. FBCA-approved tools are Flint AI (grades 6–12) and Microsoft Copilot (grades 9–12). Unauthorized AI use is treated as a form of academic dishonesty. Full guidance, including the [AI Acceptable Use Menu](#), is available from the school.

Homework Expectations:

Homework in middle school is designed to reinforce classroom learning, promote responsibility, and build independent study habits in preparation for upper school. Meaningful homework contributes to students' academic success by providing opportunities to practice skills, engage with content, and develop time management.

Recommended Homework Time Guidelines:

- 5th–6th Grade: 50–60 minutes per night
- 7th–8th Grade: 70–90 minutes per night

Individual homework loads may vary based on the student's course selections (including advanced courses), personal work habits, and the school calendar.

Assessment Communication:

Teachers provide at least one week's notice for major assessments. Dates are communicated via MyFBCA, class announcements, and weekly newsletters.

Test & Quiz Limits:

To support student success, students should have:

- No more than **three total assessments (tests/quizzes)** on a single day.
- No more than **two tests** in one day.

Students should inform their teachers or the assistant head of middle school if they are scheduled for more than the daily limit.

Late Work Policy:

At FBCA, we believe developing personal responsibility and time management skills is an important part of preparing students for the expectations of Upper School and life beyond the classroom. In Middle School, we also recognize that students are still developing these habits. This policy provides clear structure while allowing a small measure of grace as students grow in responsibility. Students are expected to take ownership of their learning by keeping track of their assignments and submitting any late or missing work on their own.

Minor Assignments:

- 10-point deduction for each school day late (up to 2 days).
- After 2 days, the assignment will receive a grade of 0.

Major Assignments:

- 20-point deduction on the first day late.
- 10-point deduction per day for each subsequent day late (up to 4 days).
- After 4 days, the assignment will receive a grade of 0, but the student is still required to complete the work.

Habitual late work may affect a student's conduct grade. Teachers will communicate with parents if late work becomes a concern.

Make-Up Work Due to Absence:

Students with excused absences have the opportunity to complete make-up work for the same number of missed days. For absences of more than three days, a coordinated plan should be arranged between the student and teachers. All absent students should meet with their teacher during morning office hours and check Blackbaud for assignments.

Reassessments:

Teachers may offer students who score below 70% on a traditional assessment the opportunity to retake the assessment, with a maximum grade of 70%. Requirements for reassessment include:

- Completion of self-reflection and test error correction.
- Completion of all related classwork and homework.
- Meet with the teacher during morning office hours.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit is not a standard part of middle school academic practice. Students are expected to demonstrate mastery through assigned coursework and assessments.

Academic Probation:

Students may be placed on academic probation if they:

- Earn two or more grades of 69 or below within two consecutive grading periods.
- Earn an F in a core academic subject.

The purpose of academic probation is to provide targeted academic support and accountability. Students on probation may be required to attend additional academic support sessions. Their eligibility for extracurricular participation will be reviewed, and teachers and the Head of Middle School will keep families informed of progress.

Co-Curricular Eligibility:

To participate in athletics, fine arts performances, and other extracurricular activities:

- Students must meet the academic eligibility standards outlined in the FBCA Student & Family Handbook, which follow a “*no pass, no play*” policy. Students with a failing grade on a quarterly report will be ineligible to compete or perform for two weeks, with eligibility reviewed biweekly.
- Students on academic probation or with multiple failing grades may be deemed ineligible until academic progress is demonstrated.

FBCA Middle School Course of Study



Biblical Studies

At FBCA, our Middle School Bible Department is rooted in the truth of God's word, with a focus on nurturing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We strive to help students understand the grand narrative of Scripture—connecting the Old and New Testaments—and equipping them with tools to confidently live out their faith in a complex world.

Our mission is to guide students on a journey of spiritual growth, encouraging them to embrace a living faith that sustains them throughout life's challenges. By fostering a safe environment for questions and doubts, we help students see these moments as essential steps in their faith journey.

We believe that effective Bible education:

- **Connects Faith to Life:** Teaching the Bible's relevance to everyday experiences and modern challenges.
- **Encourages Critical Thinking:** Challenging students to ask meaningful questions and analyze scripture
- **Fosters Empathy:** Exploring biblical narratives to build understanding and compassion through a Biblical Worldview.
- **Builds Collaboration:** Cultivating respectful dialogue and teamwork within a supportive classroom community.
- **Embraces Interdisciplinary Learning:** Integrating Biblical principles across academic subjects for a holistic learning experience.
- **Develops Academic Skills:** Strengthening writing, research, and critical reading abilities through the study of scripture.

Our ultimate goal is to instill in students a deep love for God's Word, a clear understanding of their identity as image-bearers of God, and the confidence to carry their faith into every aspect of life. By partnering with parents, we are committed to shaping the next generation of Christian leaders who will serve with wisdom, grace, and truth.

Bible 5- Building on the Rock: Stewardship

(Full Year) Grade 5

This course continues the Building on the Rock curriculum begun in Kindergarten through Grade 4. The focus in Grade 5 is stewardship, where students learn to appreciate and care for God's creation. In the first semester, students review key Bible truths such as Wisdom, Fellowship, Image-Bearing, and Servanthood. The second semester explores Scripture to understand how God sustains and rules over His creation.

Students will be introduced to:

- Biblical foundations of truth and wisdom
- God's sovereignty over creation
- Caring for creation and using it responsibly
- Stewardship of time, talents, and treasures to glorify God
- Parables and storytelling in Scripture
- Biblical history fundamentals
- The life and ministry of Jesus
- Independent reading and reflection on God's Word
- Prayer as communion with God

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- The redemptive work of Jesus and cultivating a personal relationship with Him
- Foundational beliefs and values rooted in Scripture
- Scripture memorization
- Image-bearing and servanthood
- God's attributes and His care for creation
- Analyzing biblical narratives
- Creation theology
- Service and responsibility

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Grow in confidence as image bearers of Christ
- Compare and contrast biblical accounts
- Analyze parables and apply their lessons
- Apply Christlike character traits in daily life
- Relate biblical history to their own experiences
- Recognize Jesus as the ultimate example for life and faith
- Turn to God's Word for truth and decision-making

- Identify the consequences of sin and restoration through Christ

Resources Used:

- *Building on the Rock*, Summit Ministries (2018)
- *Jesus Centered Bible NLT*, Group Publishing (2015)

Bible 6—Foundations of Christianity

(Full Year) Grade 6

This course provides an overview of several key elements of the Christian faith. Students grow in biblical literacy, exploring the metanarrative and timeline of Scripture, while also gaining an understanding of church history, core Christian doctrines, and an introduction to apologetics—equipping them to defend their faith with confidence.

Students will be introduced to:

- Studying and interpreting Scripture using biblical tools and methods
- Connecting Old Testament promises with New Testament fulfillments
- Recognizing key figures, events, and themes in Church History (Pentecost through the modern church)
- Exploring basic Christian doctrines (God, Bible, Salvation, Church, Angels)
- Understanding biblical covenants
- Practicing spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, worship, and service
- Analyzing God’s attributes through Scripture
- Building skills in critical thinking
- Developing foundational apologetics skills

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- The redemptive work of Jesus and cultivating a personal relationship with Him
- Scripture memorization and practical application
- Biblical character analysis
- God’s sovereignty and providence
- Christian character development
- Fulfillment of biblical prophecy

Bible 6—Foundations of Christianity

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Articulate the fall of mankind and the restoration Christ brings
- Reflect on and assess personal spiritual growth
- Apply biblical truths to daily life
- Accurately analyze and interpret biblical texts
- Identify and explain key theological concepts
- Understand God's covenant relationships
- Recognize prophecy fulfillment
- Evaluate worldviews and moral questions through a biblical lens

Resources Used:

- *Jesus Centered Bible NLT*, Group Publishing (2015)
- *A Visual Theology Guide to the Bible: Seeing and Knowing God's Word* by Tim Challies and Josh Byers, Zondervan, 2019
- *Literarily* by Kristie Anyabwile
- *God's Timeline: The Big Book of Church History* by Linda Finlayson
- *The Thinking Toolbox: 35 Lessons That Will Build Your Reasoning Skills* by Nathaniel Bluedorn
- *The Bible Project* by Tim Mackie and Jon Collins

Bible 7—Life and Times of Christ

(Full Year) Grade 7

This course invites students to explore the life, teachings, and impact of Jesus Christ, with a focus on His mission and message as revealed in the Gospels. Students journey through the key events of Jesus' life—His birth, ministry, miracles, death, and resurrection—while reflecting on their significance for faith and daily living. In addition to studying the historical and biblical context of Jesus' life, students consider how His teachings continue to inspire and guide believers today. Emphasis is placed on personal reflection, community engagement, and practical application, as students are challenged to respond to Jesus' example with compassion, integrity, and purpose in their relationships, service, and decision-making. Through interactive discussions, creative projects, and collaborative activities, students deepen their understanding of Jesus' relevance today and develop a personal response to His call to live a life of faith and love.

Students will be introduced to:

- Core concepts of Christ's attributes and deity
- Biblical principles from the Gospels and their impact on spiritual growth
- Analysis of Christ's parables and miracles
- Fundamentals of prayer and spiritual disciplines
- The meaning of Imago Dei and its practical implications
- A biblical worldview in comparison to other religions

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- The redemptive work of Jesus and cultivating a personal relationship with Him
- Scripture memorization and application
- Development of Christlike character
- Prayer practices and spiritual formation
- Biblical principles for relationships
- Spiritual transformation through Christ

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Apply biblical teachings to daily life and decision-making
- Demonstrate understanding of Christ's major teachings
- Grow in confidence in theological understanding and practices
- Practice intentional prayer and consistent Scripture study
- Reflect Christ's character and example in their own lives
- Compare and contrast other religions through the lens of a biblical worldview

Resources Used:

- *Jesus Centered Bible NLT*, Group Publishing (2015)
- *The Theology Handbook* — The Daily Grace Co., Hardcover, 2021
- *The Bible Project* — Tim Mackie & Jon Collins

Bible 8—Principles of Hermeneutics

Full Year (Grade 8)

This course introduces students to the practice of reading the Bible with theological depth, spiritual discernment, and academic skill. The course aims to develop young theologians—students who seek to know God more fully through His Word and to lead others with wisdom and clarity. This skills-based course equips students to observe Scripture closely, interpret it faithfully, and apply it meaningfully. Using a clear and structured approach to studying Scripture, students learn how different types of biblical literature call for different ways of reading and understanding. They will study major genres—including Epistles, Old Testament Narratives, Gospels, Acts, Law, Prophets, Psalms, Wisdom Literature, and Revelation. Students will grow in their ability to research, write, teach, and communicate Scripture clearly to children, peers, and adults—ultimately preparing them for future academic success and to serve faithfully in their families, churches, and the Kingdom of God.

Students will be introduced to:

- Bible study methodology and observation techniques
- Biblical genres and their identification
- Developing higher-level research methods, citation skills, and other applicable academic tools
- Reflecting on theological growth through journaling, sharing, and speaking while learning to listen to the Holy Spirit and Prayer

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Understanding the author's intent in Scripture
- Evaluating the role of context and genre in understanding Scripture
- Evaluating a passage's application and discerning how to be faithful to the text
- Recognizing the redemptive work of Jesus as a central theme of Scripture and understanding how that shapes our relationship with Him and our role in His mission
- Practicing Socratic discussion and respectful debate

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Apply a comprehensive Bible study method—observation, interpretation, and application—to texts from both the Old and New Testaments
- Use online resources effectively for biblical research
- Demonstrate understanding of biblical reliability and inerrancy
- Create organized outlines and genre-aware interpretations of Bible passages
- Communicate their interpretations clearly through oral presentations, written reflections, and respectful theological dialogue

Resources Used:

- *Jesus-Centered Bible NLT* (Group Publishing, 2015)
- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*—Fee & Stuart (Zondervan, 2014)
- Online resources: NetBible.org, BibleGateway.com, BibleHub.com, StepBible, The Bible Project

English Language Arts

At Fort Bend Christian Academy, we affirm God's gift of language and story as a means of revealing Himself, and we strive to mirror Him in our own words. This belief shapes our English Language Arts (ELA) program, where language is viewed as a divine gift for understanding and expressing truth. Our goal is to develop confident communicators, critical thinkers, and lifelong readers who can clearly articulate and defend their faith.

Our program is built on five pillars:

- **Reading** – Students cultivate a love for literature through whole-class novel studies, Socratic discussions, annotation strategies, and a balance of classic

and contemporary works. Independent reading and regular library visits nurture lifelong habits.

- **Writing** – Using the 6 Traits writing model, students learn to craft strong academic and creative works. Genre studies, writing workshops, and feedback tools like Flint AI help them grow as skilled writers.
- **Speaking and Listening** – Communication skills are strengthened through Socratic seminars, presentations, collaborative projects, and dramatic readings that bring literature to life.
- **Grammar and Vocabulary** – Integrated instruction, supported by IXL and other resources for grammar and Membean for vocabulary, equips students to communicate with clarity, precision, and creativity.
- **Critical Thinking** – Students are challenged to engage deeply with texts, evaluate authors' choices in style and structure, and connect literature to their own experiences, Scripture, and real-world issues.

Through this balanced approach, students learn to use language to glorify God and impact their communities. Grounded in a biblical worldview, our program prepares students not only for academic success but also for a lifetime of thoughtful communication and service.

English Language Arts 5

(Full Year) Grade 5

Fifth grade English lays a strong foundation in grammar, mechanics, and clear written expression. Students practice crafting complete sentences, paragraphs, and simple essays while learning to apply correct punctuation and usage. Literature selections, including novels, myths, short stories, and poetry, introduce students to literary elements such as theme, character, and setting. Writing tasks emphasize narrative and expository forms, helping students learn to communicate both creatively and logically. Students are also encouraged to reflect on characters' choices and conflicts through the lens of Scripture, beginning to see how literature can reveal truth about human nature and God's design.

Students will be introduced to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – parts of speech; subject-verb agreement; capitalization and punctuation; contractions and double negatives
- **Composition and Research** – narrative, expository, and argumentative writing; thesis development; MLA formatting; research connected to mythology, Bible, or history
- **Literature and Culture** – plot structure, theme, allegory, figurative language, and drama elements; introduction to “Signposts” reading strategies
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – close reading, annotation, collaborative projects, literature circles, and poetry analysis
- **Vocabulary** – Greek and Latin roots; vocabulary acquisition through novels and MyView Literacy

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – spelling, sentence types, and advanced grammar application
- **Composition and Research** – writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing), transitions, topic sentences, and paragraph development
- **Literature and Culture** – active reading strategies; identifying main ideas and supporting details
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – continued practice with character and theme analysis through group discussion and projects
- **Vocabulary** – developing word knowledge through context clues and root study

By year's end, students will be able to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – Write complete sentences with correct punctuation, capitalization, and agreement.
- **Composition and Research** – Produce multi-paragraph compositions, apply MLA formatting in typed documents, and conduct research projects connected to literature, Bible, or history.
- **Literature and Culture** – Analyze plot elements, identify figurative language, compose and analyze poetry, explain text structures in fiction and nonfiction, and understand the characteristics of folktales.
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – Evaluate characters, themes, and settings, and participate effectively in discussions and literature circles.
- **Vocabulary** – Expand vocabulary through contextual study and mastery of Greek and Latin roots.

Resources Used:

- **Summer Reading:** *A Wrinkle in Time*
- **Novels:** *Hatchet*; *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
- **Textbook:** *MyView Literacy, Grade 5* (Savvas, 2020)
- *Where the Sidewalk Ends* and other poetry selections
- *Winston Grammar, Book 1* (Precious Memories Educational Resources, 1992)
- **Digital tools:** Flint AI, IXL

English Language Arts 6

(Full Year) Grade 6

English Language Arts in sixth grade builds on prior foundations while guiding students toward greater independence in reading and writing. Students expand their skills through multi-paragraph essays, documented writing, and research projects, while continuing to strengthen grammar and mechanics. Literature study deepens with analysis of novels, poetry, and plays, with attention to author's purpose, figurative language, and thematic development. The course also emphasizes clear communication and critical thinking, preparing students to engage with increasingly complex texts and to express their ideas with clarity and confidence. Grounded in a Biblical worldview, students are encouraged to evaluate literature thoughtfully and use language responsibly to communicate truth.

Students will be introduced to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – active and passive voice; phrases and clauses; sentence variety and complex sentences; punctuation in dialogue
- **Composition and Research** – persuasive and expository essays; thesis statements and supporting evidence; research skills and cultural studies; creative writing techniques
- **Literature and Culture** – author's perspective and purpose; figurative language; drama analysis; exploration of diverse texts
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – novel analysis; plot, character, setting, and conflict studies; collaborative projects and discussions
- **Vocabulary** – Membean for individualized growth; vocabulary study through novels and *My Perspectives*

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – application of advanced sentence structures; consistent practice with punctuation and mechanics
- **Composition and Research** – personal narrative writing; writing process and the six traits of writing
- **Literature and Culture** – poetry analysis and creation; text structures and literary devices; character analysis; exploration of diverse texts through collaborative Literature Circles
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – thematic comparisons; independent reading and response; analysis of conflict and setting in literature
- **Vocabulary** – application of vocabulary in context across reading and writing

By year's end, students will be able to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – Demonstrate control of sentence variety, voice, and mechanics in written work.
- **Composition and Research** – Write personal narratives, persuasive essays, and expository pieces; conduct research on cultural traditions; and integrate supporting evidence effectively.
- **Literature and Culture** – Analyze literary devices, compare and contrast themes, and explain how conflict and setting influence character development.
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – Analyze plays, present book talks orally and in writing, and contribute meaningfully in class discussions.
- **Vocabulary** – Expand and apply vocabulary knowledge through Membean, novels, and anthology study.

Resources Used:

- **Summer Reading:** *Wonder*
- **Novels:** *Esperanza Rising*; *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*; *Fever 1793*

- Various poetry selections
- **Textbook:** *My Perspectives, Grade 6* (Savvas, 2021)
- **Digital tools:** Membean, Flint AI, IXL

English Language Arts 7

(Full Year) Grade 7

Seventh-grade English builds on the foundations of earlier years by guiding students from comprehension toward analysis and argument. Students explore a range of genres through four core novels and an anthology, using close reading strategies to examine theme, character, and author's craft. Grammar instruction supports stronger sentence variety and precision, while writing assignments emphasize documented essays, persuasive arguments, and narrative expression. Research skills are reinforced through cross-curricular projects with Bible and history, helping students evaluate sources and synthesize information. Vocabulary study through Membean complements reading and writing growth. Throughout the year, students consider how literature communicates timeless truths and wrestles with moral questions relevant to their own lives.

Students will be introduced to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – phrases and clauses; sentence variety (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex); verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives); commonly confused words
- **Composition and Research** – documented essays; argumentative writing; analysis of textual evidence; synthesis of information from multiple sources
- **Literature and Culture** – analysis of author's craft and style; poetic devices and structure; exploration of theme and tone in literature
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – argumentative analysis; collaborative discussions; narrative and creative writing connected to literature
- **Vocabulary** – individualized practice through Membean; vocabulary application in context through novels and My Perspectives selections

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – thesis development and essay structure; refinement of figurative language use
- **Composition and Research** – cross-curricular research projects with Bible and history; proper citation methods
- **Literature and Culture** – close reading of novels, short stories, and poetry; study of literary devices and their effect on meaning
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – thematic comparisons across texts; independent reading responses; oral presentations of book talks
- **Vocabulary** – consistent application of new vocabulary in speech and writing

By year's end, students will be able to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – Apply advanced sentence structures and mechanics accurately in essays.
- **Composition and Research** – Write documented argumentative and expository essays, citing multiple credible sources effectively.
- **Literature and Culture** – Analyze how literary devices contribute to theme and tone; compare themes across genres.
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – Synthesize ideas from various texts; engage in oral presentations and structured discussions with clarity.

- **Vocabulary** – Demonstrate growth in vocabulary through Membean and apply word knowledge across reading and writing.

Resources Used:

- **Summer Reading:** *Prince Caspian*
- **Novels:** *The Outsiders*; *A Christmas Carol*; *Glory Be*; *The Giver*
- **Anthology/Textbook:** *My Perspectives*, Grade 7 (Savvas, 2021)
- **Digital Tools:** Membean, Flint AI, Nearpod, Noodle Tools, IXL, and research databases

Honors English Language Arts 7

(Full Year) Grade 7

Students who qualify are determined by a rubric based on the following: general academic and self-management performance, grade average in English 6, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendation.

Honors English Language Arts in seventh grade challenges students who demonstrate strong academic readiness, self-management skills, and a love for literature and writing. Building on the grade-level curriculum, this course emphasizes deeper analysis of literary elements, advanced writing structures, and the integration of research skills. Students read a range of novels, short stories, and poetry, using close reading strategies to explore themes, author's craft, and complex literary devices. Writing assignments include documented essays, argumentative and persuasive pieces, and creative writing, with emphasis on thesis development and sustained analysis. Vocabulary study through Membean strengthens precision in both oral and written expression. Grounded in a Biblical worldview, students are encouraged to reflect on truth, morality, and human nature as revealed through literature.

Grammar Concepts Taught:

- Phrases and clauses
- Sentence variety (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex)
- Verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives)
- Commonly confused words

Students will be introduced to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – phrases and clauses; sentence variety (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex); verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives); commonly confused words
- **Composition and Research** – documented essays; argumentative and expository writing; analyzing textual evidence; synthesis of information from multiple sources
- **Literature and Culture** – author's craft and style; advanced literary devices (paradox, hyperbole, anthropomorphism, pun, anaphora, euphemism); poetry structure and sound (rhyme scheme, enjambment, caesura); Shakespearean sonnets—English/Elizabethan form (abab cdcd efef gg), iambic pentameter, quatrain-couplet structure, the volta, and figurative language.
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – argumentative analysis; exploration of moral and cultural themes in literature; creative and narrative writing; structured class discussions
- **Vocabulary** – individualized practice through Membean; integration of academic and literary vocabulary into essays and presentations

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – refinement of thesis development and advanced essay structure
- **Composition and Research** – research skills and proper citation methods; cross-curricular projects with Bible and history
- **Literature and Culture** – deeper study of figurative language and rhetorical effect; close analysis of novels, nonfiction, and poetry

- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – synthesis of ideas across texts; independent reading and written responses; participation in oral presentations and Socratic seminars
- **Vocabulary** – applying vocabulary in context through reading, writing, and discussion

By year's end, students will be able to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – Demonstrate control of varied and complex sentence structures.
- **Composition and Research** – Write documented argumentative and analytical essays that integrate credible sources effectively.
- **Literature and Culture** – Analyze advanced literary devices and explain their impact on theme and tone.
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – Evaluate and synthesize information from multiple texts; contribute thoughtfully to structured discussions; write with originality and depth.
- **Vocabulary** – Expand and apply vocabulary knowledge with precision in academic and creative contexts.

Resources Used:

- **Summer Reading:** *Prince Caspian*
- **Novels:** *The Outsiders*; *A Christmas Carol*; *Glory Be*; *The Giver*
- **Textbook:** *My Perspectives, Grade 7* (Savvas, 2021)
- **Digital Tools:** Membean, Flint AI, IXL, Nearpod, Noodle Tools, research databases

English Language Arts 8

(Full Year) Grade 8

Eighth-grade English deepens students' understanding of literature, writing, and communication as they prepare for the transition to high school. Students study a range of genres—including novels, plays, nonfiction, and poetry—while analyzing how authors develop theme, character, and cultural context. Grammar instruction refines precision and style, while writing assignments emphasize literary and personal commentary, analytical essays, and creative expression. Students also strengthen their research and media literacy skills through cross-curricular projects with Bible and history. Vocabulary development supports reading comprehension and equips students to write with accuracy and sophistication. Grounded in a Biblical worldview, students are encouraged to evaluate how literature explores questions of truth, power, freedom, and human responsibility, considering how these themes connect to their own faith and daily lives.

Students will be introduced to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – advanced comma usage; consistent verb tense and voice; editing and stylistic techniques
- **Composition and Research** – thematic and comparative analysis; documented analytical essays; narrowing topics and evaluating sources; personal commentary writing
- **Literature and Culture** – exploration of historical and cultural context; analysis of Shakespearean drama and modern texts; study of poetic forms and expression; recognition of bias in media and literature
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – advanced literary analysis; oral and written responses to literature; creative expression through poetry; structured Socratic seminars and debate
- **Vocabulary** – individualized practice through Membean; vocabulary integration into essays, oral presentations, and creative writing

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – consistent application of style and editing techniques
- **Composition and Research** – sustained thesis development; use of citations and academic formatting across disciplines
- **Literature and Culture** – character motivation and behavior analysis; close reading of complex themes; thematic synthesis across multiple texts
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – critical analysis of societal pressures and moral dilemmas; participation in Socratic discussions; connections between literature and real-world issues
- **Vocabulary** – applying vocabulary in both academic writing and creative expression

By year's end, students will be able to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – Apply advanced grammar and stylistic conventions consistently in polished written work.
- **Composition and Research** – Write well-developed analytical and comparative essays supported by textual evidence and credible sources.
- **Literature and Culture** – Analyze complex themes across genres and contexts, including Shakespeare, historical narratives, and modern texts.
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – Evaluate how societal pressures and labels shape characters; express ideas through structured discussions and original poetry.
- **Vocabulary** – Expand and apply vocabulary knowledge for clarity and precision in both written and spoken communication.

Resources Used:

- **Summer Reading:** *The Outsiders* (to be updated in 2026)
- **Novels and Plays:** *Animal Farm*; *Romeo and Juliet*; *Allies*; *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- **Textbook:** *My Perspectives, Grade 8* (Savvas, 2021)
- **Digital Tools:** Membean, Flint AI, Noodle Tools, research databases

Honors English Language Arts 8

(Full Year) Grade 8

Students who qualify are determined by a rubric based on the following: general academic and self-management performance, grade average in English 7, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendation.

Eighth-grade Honors English challenges students to read and write at a higher level of complexity as they prepare for high school honors coursework. Students engage with a wide range of genres—including novels, plays, historical fiction, and memoir—while using close reading strategies to analyze diction, point of view, theme, and author’s craft. Writing instruction emphasizes analytical and argumentative essays, rhetorical analysis, and documented research projects, with continued growth in grammar, style, and vocabulary for precision and effectiveness. Core texts such as *Animal Farm*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Allies*, and *Night* invite students to wrestle with questions of justice, morality, and human character across different historical and cultural settings. Grounded in a Biblical worldview, students are encouraged to evaluate these themes through the lens of Scripture, developing the ability to discern truth, think critically, and communicate their convictions with clarity and grace.

Students will be introduced to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – sentence variety; sentence structures for rhetorical effect; advanced comma usage
- **Composition and Research** – advanced rhetorical analysis; stylistic analysis and emulation; cross-curricular research with Bible and history
- **Literature and Culture** – historical and cultural context in literature; in-depth character motivation analysis; syntax analysis
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing**—advanced analytical and argumentative writing; stylistic choices in oral and written communication
- **Vocabulary**—vocabulary growth through Membean and application in analytical essays

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – control of grammar and style for rhetorical effect
- **Composition and Research** – synthesis of ideas across texts; evaluating sources for credibility and accuracy
- **Literature and Culture** – thematic analysis across texts; study of universal questions of justice, faith, and courage
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – Socratic seminar discussions; rhetorical devices and fallacies in argument; comparative analysis of texts; emulation of author style
- **Vocabulary** – application of advanced vocabulary in speaking and writing

By year's end, students will be able to:

- **Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation** – Apply grammar and punctuation with sophistication to strengthen style and clarity.
- **Composition and Research** – Write advanced analytical essays and multi-source research papers with correct citation.
- **Literature and Culture** – Analyze complex themes, character motivations, and historical/cultural contexts in literature.
- **Critical Thinking, Speech, and Creative Writing** – Participate effectively in structured discussions; evaluate arguments and rhetorical strategies; connect literature to biblical truths and personal convictions.
- **Vocabulary** – Demonstrate expanded vocabulary knowledge through application in speaking, writing, and textual analysis.

Resources Used:

- **Summer Reading:** *The Outsiders* (to be updated in 2026)
- **Novels and Plays:** *Animal Farm*; *Romeo and Juliet*; *Allies*; *Night*
- **Textbook:** *My Perspectives, Grade 7* (Savvas, 2021)
- **Digital Tools:** Membean, Flint AI, Noodle Tools, research databases

Mathematics

The Middle School Math Department recognizes mathematics as God's inherent language for explaining His created world. We foster an environment where students discover the beauty and order of mathematics through collaborative exploration and critical thinking. Our approach emphasizes both theoretical understanding and practical application, helping students recognize mathematics as a tool for understanding God's design in everyday life.

Our students will:

- Develop deep conceptual understanding by transforming abstract mathematical ideas into concrete, visualizable concepts
- Articulate mathematical thinking clearly through writing and verbal explanation, using their own words to demonstrate genuine comprehension
- Collaborate effectively with peers to solve problems and build resilience through a growth mindset approach
- Apply mathematical concepts to real-world situations, recognizing mathematics as a practical tool for daily life
- Think critically through open-ended problems and logical reasoning exercises
- Master fundamental skills while understanding the "why" behind mathematical procedures
- Appreciate mathematics as a reflection of God's methodical and purposeful nature in creating an ordered universe

Through this approach, we cultivate not only mathematical proficiency but also character development, preparing students for future academic success while grounding their understanding in biblical truth.

Math 5

(Full Year) Grade 5

This course provides students with a solid foundation in mathematics, developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills by exploring six units: Decimal Operations, Fractions, Algebraic Reasoning, Geometry and Measurement, Data Analysis, and Personal Financial Literacy. Students will engage with mathematics through investigation, problem-solving, and real-world applications. The curriculum emphasizes conceptual understanding alongside procedural fluency, encouraging students to explore mathematical relationships and develop strategies for solving complex problems.

Students will be introduced to:

- The properties of operations to solve problems (Commutative, Associative, Distributive, and Identity Properties)
- Identifying Place Value of Decimals through the Thousandths
- Comparing and Ordering, and Rounding Decimals through the thousandths
- Multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals by up to 2-digit factors and divisors
- Adding and Subtracting Fractions and Mixed Numbers with like and unlike denominators
- Multiplying and Dividing Fractions
- Simplifying numerical expressions using the Order of Operations (GEMDAS), including Exponents
- The parts of an Algebraic expression and evaluating algebraic expressions
- Writing and solving one-step equations (all four operations)
- Classification and Properties of Two-Dimensional Figures: Polygons, Triangles, and Quadrilaterals
- Volume of Unit Cubes and Rectangular Prisms
- Customary and Metric Units of Measure Conversions
- Graphing Data on the Coordinate Plane (Quadrant I only) and analyzing data relationships
- Represent and analyze categorical data (Frequency tables and Bar graphs) and numerical data (Dot plots, leaf plots, and scatter plots)
- Personal financial literacy: Make a Budget

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Comparing, Ordering, and Rounding Whole Numbers
- Adding and subtracting whole numbers and decimals up to the thousandths

- Solving problems involving Fraction and Mixed number operations
- Prime and Composite Numbers and Factors and Divisibility Rules
- Area and Perimeter of Two-Dimensional Figures: Rectangles and Squares
- Logical thinking and mathematical reasoning
- Problem-solving strategies

By the year's end, students will be able to:

- Solve problems with positive rational numbers (decimals and fractions)
- Evaluate expressions and solve one-step equations
- Use formulas to find area, perimeter, and volume
- Interpreting data to draw conclusions and make predictions
- Use appropriate technology to enhance mathematical understanding

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Texas Go Math Grade 5* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015)
- **Digital Tools:** IXL, Delta Math & Wayground

Math 6

(Full Year) Grade 6

This course develops students' mathematical proficiency by studying rational numbers, algebraic concepts, geometry, and data analysis. Students will work with integers, fractions, decimals, and percents while mastering operations and problem-solving techniques. They'll explore proportional relationships, write and solve equations and inequalities, and represent data using coordinate planes and graphs. Geometric concepts include triangle properties and area calculations. Throughout the course, students will reinforce computational skills with rational numbers, apply order of operations, evaluate expressions, and solve area and volume problems. By completion, students will confidently solve problems with various number forms, work with expressions and equations, apply geometric formulas, and interpret data to make predictions.

Students will be introduced to:

- Classification of Rational Numbers
- Identifying opposites, comparing and ordering, and finding the absolute value of rational numbers, including integers
- Multiplying and Dividing Mixed Numbers
- Integer Operations with all four operations
- Representing and solving problems with ratios, rates (unit rates), and proportions (Tables and Graphs)
- Comparing additive and multiplicative relationships
- Fractions, decimals, and Percent conversions
- Understanding percents and solving percent problems
- Expressing numbers using exponents and prime factorization
- Writing and solving two-step equations
- Writing and solving up to two-step inequalities with positive rational numbers
- Graphing Data on the Coordinate Plane and Analyzing Data Relationships

- Representing relationships between independent and dependent variables through tables, graphs, and equations to analyze patterns and connections
- Triangle inequality, Angle sum in a Triangle, and Side and angle relationships in a triangle
- Area of Parallelograms, trapezoid, and triangles
- Displaying, analyzing, and summarizing categorical data using the measures of center, box plots, dot plots, stem-and-leaf plots, and histograms
- Personal Financial Literacy

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Operations with Decimals and Fractions
- Order of operations with rational numbers, including integers
- Proportional relationships, including ratios, rates, proportions, and unit conversions
- Evaluating algebraic expressions
- Solving area problems with quadrilaterals and triangles
- Solving Volume problems

By the year's end, students will be able to:

- Solve problems with rational numbers (integers, decimals, fractions, and percents)
- Evaluate expressions and solve two-step equations
- Use formulas to find area, perimeter, and volume
- Interpreting data to draw conclusions and make predictions
- Use appropriate technology to enhance mathematical understanding

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Texas Go Math Grade 6* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015)
- **Digital Tools:** IXL, PhET Simulations, Delta Math & Wayground

Advanced Math 6

(Full Year) Grade 6

Students who qualify are determined by a rubric based on the following: general academic and self-management performance, grade average in Math 5, math placement test scores, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendation.

This course builds on foundational mathematics concepts while introducing students to more advanced topics in proportional relationships, algebra, geometry, and statistics. Students will explore repeating decimals, constant rates of change, and proportional relationships through both algebraic and graphical representations. They will solve complex percent problems involving increases, decreases, markups, and markdowns. Geometric concepts include similarity, scale drawings, the discovery of Pi, angle relationships, circumference and area of circles, composite figures, and three-dimensional measurements of prisms and pyramids. Students will develop an understanding of experimental and theoretical probability, using technology for simulations and making predictions. Algebraic skills will advance to include finding slope and y-intercept, writing and graphing linear equations, and solving multi-step equations and inequalities. The course reinforces operations with rational numbers, proportional versus non-proportional relationships, percent applications, two-step equations, area calculations, and data analysis. By the year's end, students will confidently solve problems with positive rational numbers, evaluate expressions, apply geometric formulas, and interpret data to draw conclusions and make predictions while also gaining personal financial literacy through comparing simple and compound interest for informed purchasing decisions.

Students will be introduced to:

- Repeating decimals and their conversions
- Constant rate of change and the constant of proportionality
- Graphical representation of proportional and non-proportional relationships
- Application of percent problems: percent increase and decrease, mark up and mark down
- Proportionality in Geometry: similar shapes and scale drawing
- The discovery of Pi in relation to ratios
- Solving problems with experimental and theoretical probability of simple and compound events and making predictions using the results
- Using technology to conduct simulations
- Finding the slope and y-intercept of a linear relationship in the form $y=mx+b$
- Writing and graphing linear equations in the form of $y=mx+b$
- Solving multi-step equations and inequalities
- Angle relationships in angle pairs: Supplementary, complementary, vertical, linear pair
- Circumference and area of circles
- Area of composite figures
- Volume and Surface area (total and lateral) of prisms and pyramids (rectangular and triangular)
- Making inferences from random samples and comparing populations
- Personal Financial Literacy: Comparing Simple and Compound Interest and making purchasing decisions

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Relationships between the sets of rational numbers
- Operations with rational numbers
- Proportional relationships versus non-proportional relationships
- Solving problems involving percents
- Writing and solving two-step equations and inequalities
- Area of quadrilaterals and triangles
- Analyzing and comparing categorical data using the measures of center, box plots, dot plots

By the year's end, students will be able to:

- Solve problems with rational numbers
- Evaluate expressions and solve up to two-step equations and inequalities
- Use formulas to find area, perimeter, volume, and surface area
- Graph linear relationships
- Interpret data to draw conclusions and make predictions
- Use appropriate technology to enhance mathematical understanding

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Texas Go Math* Grade 7 (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015)
- **Digital Tools:** IXL, Delta Math, PhET Simulations, Wayground
- Desmos Classrooms/Graphing Calculator
- *Math in Focus* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020)

Math 7

(Full Year) Grade 7

This course builds on foundational mathematics concepts while introducing students to more advanced topics in proportional relationships, algebra, geometry, and statistics. Students will explore repeating decimals, constant rates of change, and proportional relationships through both algebraic and graphical representations. They will solve complex percent problems involving increases, decreases, markups, and markdowns. Geometric concepts include similarity, scale drawings, the discovery of Pi, angle relationships, circumference and area of circles, composite figures, and three-dimensional measurements of prisms and pyramids. Students will develop an understanding of experimental and theoretical probability, using technology for simulations and making predictions. Algebraic skills will advance to include finding slope and y-intercept, writing and graphing linear equations, and solving multi-step equations and inequalities. The course reinforces operations with rational numbers, proportional versus non-proportional relationships, percent applications, two-step equations, area calculations, and data analysis. By the year's end, students will confidently solve problems with positive rational numbers, evaluate expressions, apply geometric formulas, and interpret data to draw conclusions and make predictions while also gaining personal financial literacy through comparing simple and compound interest for informed purchasing decisions.

Students will be introduced to:

- Repeating decimals and their conversions
- Constant rate of change and the constant of proportionality
- Graphical representation of proportional and non-proportional relationships
- Application of percent problems: percent increase and decrease, markup and markdown
- Proportionality in Geometry: similar shapes and scale drawing
- The discovery of Pi in relation to ratios
- Solving problems with experimental and theoretical probability of simple and compound events and making predictions using the results
- Using technology to conduct simulations
- Finding the slope and y-intercept of a linear relationship in the form $y=mx+b$
- Writing and graphing linear equations in the form of $y=mx+b$
- Solving multi-step equations and inequalities
- Angle relationships in angle pairs: Supplementary, complementary, vertical, linear pair
- Circumference and area of circles
- Area of composite figures
- Volume and Surface area (total and lateral) of prisms and pyramids (rectangular and triangular)
- Making inferences from random samples and comparing populations
- Personal Financial Literacy: Comparing Simple and Compound Interest and making purchasing decisions

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Relationships between the sets of rational numbers
- Operations with rational numbers
- Proportional relationships versus non-proportional relationships
- Solving problems involving percents
- Writing and solving two-step equations and inequalities
- Area of quadrilaterals and triangles
- Analyzing and comparing categorical data using the measures of center, box plots, dot plots

By the year's end, students will be able to:

- Solve problems with rational numbers
- Evaluate expressions and solve two-step equations and inequalities
- Use formulas to find area, perimeter, volume, and surface area
- Interpreting data to draw conclusions and make predictions
- Use appropriate technology to enhance mathematical understanding

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** Texas Go Math Grade 7 (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015)
- **Digital Tools:** IXL, Delta Math, PhET Simulations, & Wayground
- Desmos Classrooms/Graphing Calculator
- *Math in Focus* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020)

Honors Pre-Algebra 7

(Full Year) Grade 7

Students who qualify are determined by a rubric based on the following: general academic and self-management performance, grade average in Math 6, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendation.

This course expands students' mathematical understanding through the exploration of real numbers, linear relationships, geometric concepts, and statistical analysis. Students will classify and order real numbers, work with scientific notation using positive and negative powers of 10, and deepen their understanding of the rate of change, slope, and direct variation. They will represent and analyze both proportional and non-proportional linear relationships, solve systems of linear equations graphically, and write equations from various representations. The course introduces students to functions, bivariate data, and scatter plots with trend lines. Geometric concepts include angle relationships in parallel lines, triangle theorems, the Pythagorean Theorem and its applications, distance formula, and three-dimensional

measurements of cylinders, cones, and spheres. Students will solve more complex equations and inequalities with variables on both sides and explore transformations, including translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations. Statistical concepts include mean absolute deviation and random sampling. Throughout the year, students will reinforce their understanding of proportional relationships, slope, y-intercept, graphing skills, and equation-solving techniques. The course also incorporates personal financial literacy through topics on loan repayment, savings, and investing.

Students will be introduced to:

- Sets of Real Numbers and their classifications: Irregular numbers
- Ordering real numbers
- Scientific Notation with Positive and Negative Powers of 10
- The Relationship between Unit Rate, Rate of Change, and Slope
- Direct Variation
- Representing and Graphing Linear Non-Proportional Relationships using Slope and y-intercept
- Comparing and Analyzing Proportional and Nonproportional Relationships
- Solving Systems of Linear Equations by Graphing
- Writing Linear equations from situations, graphs, and tables
- Understanding Bivariate Data
- Identifying, Representing, Describing, and Comparing Functions
- Angle Relationships formed in parallel lines cut by a transversal
- Angle Theorems for Triangles and Angle-Angle Similarities
- The Pythagorean Theorem and its Converse
- Distance Between Two Points
- Volume of 3-Dimensional Figures: Cylinders, Cones, Spheres
- Surface Area of 3-Dimensional Figures: Prisms, Cylinders
- Solving Equations and Inequalities with variables on both sides
- Transformations and Congruence: Translations, Reflections, Rotations, and Dilations
- Scatter Plots, Associations, and Trend Lines.
- Mean Absolute Deviation and Random Sampling
- Personal Financial Literacy: Repaying Loans, Savings, and Investing

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Proportional relationships: Unit rate, Rate of Change, and slope
- Determining Slope and y-intercept
- Graphing proportional and non-proportional relationships using slope and y-intercept
- Solving One and Two-Step Equations

By the year's end, students will be able to:

- Solve problems with positive rational numbers (decimals and fractions)
- Evaluate expressions and multi-step equations and inequalities
- Use formulas to find area, perimeter, volume, and surface area
- Interpreting data to draw conclusions and make predictions
- Use appropriate technology to enhance mathematical understanding

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Texas Go Math Grade 8* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015)
- **Digital Tools:** PhET Simulations, Desmos Classrooms & Wayground
- *Math in Focus* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020)

Pre-Algebra 8

(Full Year) Grade 8

This course develops student mastery of real numbers, linear relationships, geometric concepts, and statistical analysis. Students will explore scientific notation, rate of change, slope, and direct variation while representing linear relationships and solving systems of equations graphically. They'll analyze functions, work with bivariate data and scatter plots, and apply geometric principles, including angle relationships, the Pythagorean Theorem, and three-dimensional measurements. The curriculum covers transformations, statistical concepts, and equations with variables on both sides. Students will reinforce proportional relationships, graphing skills, and equation-solving techniques while developing personal financial literacy through topics on loans, savings, and investing.

Students will be introduced to:

- Sets of Real Numbers and their classifications: Irregular numbers
- Ordering real numbers
- Scientific Notation with Positive and Negative Powers of 10
- The Relationship between Unit Rate, Rate of Change, and Slope
- Direct Variation
- Representing and Graphing Linear Non-Proportional Relationships using Slope and y-intercept
- Comparing and Analyzing Proportional and Nonproportional Relationships
- Solving Systems of Linear Equations by Graphing
- Writing Linear equations from situations, graphs, and tables
- Understanding Bivariate Data
- Identifying, Representing, Describing, and Comparing Functions
- Angle Relationships formed in parallel lines cut by a transversal
- Angle Theorems for Triangles and Angle-Angle Similarities
- The Pythagorean Theorem and its Converse
- Distance Between Two Points
- Volume of 3-Dimensional Figures: Cylinders, Cones, Spheres
- Surface Area of 3-Dimensional Figures: Prisms, Cylinders
- Solving Equations and Inequalities with variables on both sides
- Transformations and Congruence: Translations, Reflections, Rotations, and Dilations
- Scatter Plots, Associations and Trend Lines.
- Mean Absolute Deviation and Random Sampling
- Personal Financial Literacy: Repaying Loans, Savings, and Investing

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Proportional relationships: Unit rate, Rate of Change and slope
- Determining Slope and y-intercept
- Graphing proportional and non-proportional relationships using slope and y-intercept
- Solving One and Two-Step Equations

By the year's end, students will be able to:

- Solve problems with positive rational numbers (decimals and fractions)
- Evaluate expressions and multi-step equations and inequalities
- Use formulas to find area, perimeter, volume, and surface area
- Interpreting data to draw conclusions and make predictions
- Use appropriate technology to enhance mathematical understanding

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Texas Go Math* Grade 8 (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015)
- **Digital Tools:** IXL Learning, Nearpod, Delta Math, Legends of Learning, & Wayground

Honors Algebra I

(Full Year) Grade 8

Prerequisite – Pre-Algebra

This Upper School course covers fundamental algebraic concepts, including expressions, equations, functions, and various equation types (linear, quadratic, rational, and radical). Students will learn to

solve and graph equations, work with matrices, manipulate exponents, and use graphing calculators. Throughout the year, students will strengthen their number sense, problem-solving strategies, mathematical reasoning, and ability to apply concepts to real-world situations. By the end of the course, students will be able to solve various equation types, analyze data, model real-world problems algebraically, apply properties of exponents and radicals, and effectively use mathematical technology.

Students will receive one high school credit but no grade points upon successful completion of the course.

Students will be introduced to:

- Expressions, equations, and functions
- Linear equations and linear inequalities
- Systems of equations and linear inequalities
- Operations with Matrices
- Solving systems of equations with matrices
- Quadratic expressions and equations
- Exponents, including negative and fractional exponents
- Radical expressions and equations
- Rational expressions and equations
- Operations with polynomials
- Use of graphing calculators and technology tools appropriately

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Number sense and operations
- Problem-solving strategies
- Mathematical reasoning
- Connections between algebraic and basic math concepts
- Real-world applications
- Mathematical communication and vocabulary

By the year's end, students will be able to:

- Solve and graph linear equations and inequalities
- Solve systems of equations and inequalities using multiple methods
- Factor and solve quadratic equations
- Analyze and interpret data
- Simplify and solve rational expressions
- Model real-world situations using algebraic expressions
- Apply properties of exponents and radicals
- Use appropriate technology to enhance mathematical understanding

Resources Used:

- *All Things Algebra* by Gina Wilson (2025)
- **Digital Tools:** IXL Learning, Nearpod, Delta Math, Legends of Learning, & Wayground

Social Studies

At Fort Bend Christian Academy, the Middle School Social Studies Department views history as God's story—a providential narrative in which His hand is evident throughout human events. While earthly kingdoms rise and fall, Christ's Kingdom stands eternal. Through this perspective, we encourage students to see themselves as part of God's ongoing story.

Our mission is to help students appreciate the study of history by recognizing connections between past and present and understanding how God's providence has shaped human events. We teach America's Christian heritage and constitutional foundations while also exploring the broader story of world history through a Biblical worldview.

We believe that effective history education:

- **Emphasizes Biblical Integration:** We examine historical events through the lens of Scripture, helping students understand God's sovereignty throughout history and apply Biblical principles to their analysis.
- **Develops Critical Thinking:** Through document analysis and evidence-based argumentation, we challenge students to evaluate multiple perspectives while maintaining a Biblical worldview.
- **Promotes Active Learning:** We utilize diverse teaching methods including Socratic seminars and simulations to bring history to life and foster student engagement.
- **Builds Academic Skills:** Our curriculum integrates research, note-taking, analytical writing, and study strategies that prepare students for academic success.
- **Encourages Collaboration:** Through group discussions and team projects, students learn to work together effectively while sharing diverse perspectives.
- **Connects Past to Present:** We help students recognize recurring themes throughout history and understand their relevance to contemporary life.

Through this approach, we prepare students to grow as thoughtful learners who recognize God's providence in history and begin to understand their responsibility to engage the world with wisdom and faith.

Ancient Civilizations 5

(Full Year) Grade 5

This full-year course explores the fascinating world of ancient civilizations from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, China, and the Americas. Students will examine these societies through key historical themes of justice, power, citizenship, and environment. The course develops critical thinking skills through analysis of primary sources, map reading, and cultural studies. Students will learn to evaluate historical evidence while building a foundation of world history from a Christian perspective.

Students will be introduced to:

- **Mesopotamia**—geography of the Fertile Crescent, Sumerian innovations, Hammurabi's Code, and early writing systems
- **Ancient Egypt**—pharaohs and dynasties, pyramids, mummification, the Nile's influence, and hieroglyphics
- **Ancient Greece**—city-states, democracy, philosophy, literature, and the Olympic Games
- **Ancient Rome**—the Republic and Empire, law and engineering, cultural legacy, and the spread of Christianity
- **Ancient China**—dynasties, the Great Wall, inventions, Confucianism, and the Silk Road
- **Civilizations of the Americas**—Mayan, Aztec, and Incan achievements in architecture, agriculture, and trade
- Recognition of God's providence in the rise and fall of civilizations

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Map reading and geographic analysis
- Critical thinking and historical inquiry skills
- Understanding multiple perspectives in history
- Connecting past events to present circumstances
- Analysis of primary and secondary sources
- Writing and research skills
- Understanding cause and effect in historical events
- Civic responsibility and citizenship in ancient contexts

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Analyze how geography influenced human settlement and development in ancient times
- Explain major events and developments in ancient civilizations from multiple perspectives
- Describe the development and function of ancient governments and laws
- Evaluate causes and effects of significant historical events in the ancient world
- Analyze economic patterns and trade networks of ancient civilizations
- Connect historical events and innovations to the modern world
- Use primary and secondary sources to support historical arguments
- Demonstrate understanding of civic responsibilities and roles in ancient societies

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Heritage Studies 6: Ancient Civilizations* (4th ed.). (BJU Press, 2018)
- **Student Activity Book:** *World Studies Activities* (5th ed.). (BJU Press, 2023).

World Studies 6

(Full Year) Grade 6

6th Grade World Studies is a comprehensive exploration of global history, geography, and cultures. The course introduces students to key civilizations from ancient times through the modern world, highlighting the influence of geography, politics, religion, and social structures. Students will learn about the development of early civilizations, the rise of classical empires, and the impact of events like the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Age of Exploration. The course also emphasizes the effects of industrialization, global conflicts, and the process of globalization. Through the study of maps, historical events, and cultural practices, students will gain a deeper understanding of how the world has evolved and how past developments continue to shape our global society today.

Students will be introduced to:

- World History – its narrative, leaders, governments, religions, and present-day challenges and successes
- Social Studies Skills – history, government, economics, geography, and citizenship
- Reading and Writing skills using primary and secondary sources
- Visual analysis of various types of maps, images, videos, and statistical data sets
- Biblical worldview development regarding culture and its relationship to justice, power, citizenship, environment, and religion

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Map and Spatial Skills
- Geographic and Human Connections
- Cultural Comparisons
- Analyzing Political & Economic Systems
- Critical Thinking & Cause/Effect Relationships
- Global Issues and Contemporary Connections
- Biblical Worldview Application

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Analyze major historical events and their impacts on different regions and cultures.
- Compare and contrast civilizations, including their social structures, political systems, and cultures.
- Identify key physical & political features on world maps, including continents, countries, & important landmarks.
- Understand the role of religion in shaping cultures and societies throughout history.
- Examine the relationships between geography, economics, politics, and culture in shaping societies.
- Apply a Biblical perspective when analyzing historical events, cultures, and societal issues.
- Understand how faith and religion influence governance, society, and culture throughout history.
- Analyze primary and secondary sources for historical research.

- Develop writing and presentation skills by summarizing historical events and making connections to modern times

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *World Studies* (BJU Press, 5th Edition)
- **Digital Tools:** Nearpod & Brain Pop

Texas History 7

(Full Year) Grade 7

This course examines the histories of North and South America, focusing on Texas's role in the broader narrative. Students will explore how geography, cultural exchange, conflict, and cooperation shaped the Americas while reflecting on biblical principles like stewardship and reconciliation. The Texas Tour field trip will offer firsthand experiences of key historical sites, deepening students' understanding of Texas's place in history. Through primary sources, map study, and research projects, students will develop critical thinking skills and explore connections between faith, history, and geography.

Students will be introduced to:

- Geography, climate, and natural resources of Texas
- America, Europe, and Africa before 1620: Incas, Mayans, Spanish Explorers, French Explorers
- Native American cultures and early settlements
- Spanish and French exploration of the Americas
- Spanish colonial period and missions
- Mexican independence and colonization
- Texas Revolution and the Republic of Texas
- Early statehood and the Civil War
- Reconstruction and frontier life
- Cattle industry and farming development
- Oil discovery and industrial growth
- Texas in the 20th century
- Modern Texas culture and society

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Map reading and geographic analysis
- Primary source interpretation
- Historical cause and effect relationships
- Cultural interactions and influences
- Critical thinking about historical events
- Research and presentation skills
- Making connections between past and present
- Understanding multiple perspectives in history

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Analyze how geography shaped development across the Americas
- Compare indigenous civilizations of North and South America
- Evaluate the impact of European exploration and colonization
- Analyze the causes and effects of the Texas Revolution
- Explain the structure, functions and significance of the Texas legislative, executive and judicial branches
- Understand Texas's role in the Civil War and Reconstruction
- Explain the economic development of Texas (ranching, farming, oil)
- Trace Texas' political system evolution
- Evaluate historical influences on contemporary issues

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Texas History* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016)
- **Digital Tools:** Nearpod

American History 8

(Full Year) Grade 8

Students learn about the early colonization of America, the American Revolution, and the founding of the nation, with an emphasis on faith and religious freedom. They study the formation of the U.S. Constitution and the nation's growth, analyzing the causes and effects of key events and movements, as well as the leaders who shaped them. The course also highlights how Christian values influenced historical events and the development of American government.

Students will be introduced to:

- Development of the British colonies
- American Revolution and Independence
- Creation of the U.S. Constitution and new government
- Early American politics and leadership
- Westward expansion and territorial growth
- Jacksonian Democracy
- Industrial and social reform movements
- Sectional conflicts and slavery
- Civil War and its impact
- Reconstruction and its effects

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Critical thinking about historical events
- Cause and effect relationships
- Geographical analysis
- Document-based question analysis and interpretation
- Research and presentation skills
- Note taking and study skills
- Historical writing, discussion and debate

- Connecting past events to present issues

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Analyze the development of colonial America and early political developments
- Evaluate the causes and effects of the American Revolution and the Civil War
- Explain the creation and structure of American government
- Understand westward expansion and its consequences
- Evaluate reform movements and social change
- Explain the impact of Reconstruction and connect historical events to modern America

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *American Republic* (5th ed.) (BJU Press, 2021)
- *The DBQ Project Mini-Qs in American History Volume 1 (Units 13–24)* (2025)
- **Digital Tools:** EdPuzzle, Nearpod, Wayground, Brainpop

Science

At FBCA, our approach to teaching middle school science is rooted in a Biblical worldview, recognizing the universe as a testament to God’s creativity. We seek to inspire curiosity, foster critical thinking, and cultivate a deep appreciation for the wonders of the natural world.

Our mission is to ignite "lightbulb moments" in each student as the complexities of scientific concepts become clear. Through this process, we aim not only to educate but to inspire awe at the intricacies of Creation.

We believe that effective science education:

- **Embraces hands-on learning:** Emphasizing experiential learning through labs and projects.
- **Integrates faith and science:** Teaching the full breadth of scientific knowledge while considering biblical perspectives.
- **Encourages critical thinking:** Challenging students to question and analyze deeply.
- **Promotes collaboration:** Fostering teamwork and leadership skills.
- **Connects to the real world:** Demonstrating relevance to everyday life and global challenges.
- **Develops communication skills:** Honing ability to articulate complex scientific ideas.
- **Explores ethics in science:** Examining how our faith guides us in understanding the impact and responsibilities of scientific work.

- **Utilizes technology:** Incorporating modern tools for evolving scientific landscapes.

Our ultimate goal is to equip students with a robust understanding of science, a deep reverence for the natural world, and the skills to apply their knowledge ethically. We aim to inspire the next generation of Christian scientists, thinkers, and leaders who will approach their work with integrity, wisdom, and a commitment to uncovering the secrets of our fascinating universe.

Statement on Teaching of Science, Scientific Theories, and the Origin of Life

At FBCA, we unapologetically affirm that “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” and that “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Gen. 1:1, Gen 1:27). As a Christian institution, we celebrate the scientific study of everything in our world as a means to know more about God through the study of His creation. We also acknowledge that in the scientific and academic profession, various theories are debated concerning the universe's origins and that they differ in their compatibility with the affirmation of God as the original creator of all. We teach students to critically examine scientific evidence and to understand that theories are to be evaluated based on the strength of supporting data. Our scientific courses cover the concepts of natural selection and adaptation, which demonstrate the remarkable design of God's creation, but also recognize the limitations of current evidence and theories regarding things that occurred in the distant past. By comprehensively studying various theories, students develop the knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to engage in thoughtful discussions about science and faith, strengthening their ability to articulate and defend their beliefs in academic and professional settings. FBCA believes that truly unbiased scientific discovery is consistent with the affirmation of God as the creator of all.

Science 5

(Full Year) Grade 5

This introductory course offers students a comprehensive survey of the major scientific disciplines students will encounter throughout middle school, exploring key concepts in Physical, Earth, and Life Sciences to build a strong foundation for future study. From atoms and electricity to planets and ecosystems, students will gain a broad overview of God's intricate creation. Through hands-on experiments, engaging demonstrations, and collaborative projects, students will develop essential scientific skills while fostering a sense of wonder about the natural world. As a capstone experience, students will tackle the exciting "Cinder Block Challenge," designing and building a Rube Goldberg machine that incorporates circuits, pulleys, buzzers, and LED lights to creatively move a cinder block. This course aims to ignite curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and demonstrate how scientific inquiry can deepen our appreciation of God's design in the universe.

Key Scientific Concepts Taught:

- Safety
- Scientific Equipment
- Scientific method
- Atoms
- Elements
- Electricity
- Light
- Sound
- Forces and simple machines
- Natural resources

- Fossil fuels
- Animal adaptations
- Water cycle
- Planets
- Cells
- Bacteria and viruses
- Protists (introductory)

Students will be introduced to:

- Identifying and describing physical properties of matter
- Recognizing the differences between elements and compounds
- Exploring basic forms of energy, including mechanical, light, and thermal
- Observing the role of gravity in the solar system
- Identifying adaptations in organisms that help them survive in their environment

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Making observations and measurements using the metric system
- Recording and organizing data in simple tables and graphs
- Identifying patterns in collected data
- Using models to represent simple systems in nature
- Following safe laboratory procedures

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Classify matter based on measurable physical properties
- Demonstrate that some mixtures maintain physical properties of their ingredients
- Describe and illustrate the continuous movement of water through the water cycle
- Explain how the Sun and the ocean interact in the water cycle
- Construct simple circuits and demonstrate the flow of electricity
- Design a simple experimental investigation with one variable
- Create a project for the science fair that demonstrates basic scientific principles and communicates results effectively

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Science 5* (5th Ed.) (BJU Press, 2025)
- *Science 5 Activity Manual* (5th ed.) (BJU Press, 2025)
- **Digital Tools:** Nearpod and Edpuzzle

Science 6

(Full Year) Grade 6

This comprehensive 6th grade Science course invites students to explore the intricate handiwork of the Creator through Earth and Life Sciences. The journey begins with an investigation of our planet's dynamic systems, from interconnected ecosystems to the forces driving plate tectonics, and extends to the wonders of space. The course culminates in a fascinating exploration of cellular biology, revealing the complexity of God's creation at a microscopic level. Through engaging hands-on experiments, students develop critical thinking skills and deepen their appreciation for the natural world. A course highlight is an interdisciplinary project where students research historical volcanic eruptions, crafting narratives that blend scientific knowledge with historical context. This unique approach encourages students to apply their understanding of Earth's processes to real-world events, fostering a rich, multifaceted comprehension of science.

Key Scientific Concepts Taught:

- Foundations of Scientific Study:
 - Safety in Science
 - Scientific Equipment
 - Scientific Method
 - Experimental Design
 - Metrics and Measurement
- Energy and Resources:
 - Types of Energy
 - Renewable and Non-renewable Energy Resources
- Earth's Systems and Their Interactions:
 - Overview of Earth's Major Systems
 - Biosphere and Hydrosphere

- Ecosystems and Change
- Fresh Water, Salt Water, and Land Biomes
- Geosphere:
 - Layers of the Earth
 - Rock Cycle
 - Plate Tectonics
 - Natural Disasters: Volcanoes and Earthquakes
- Atmosphere:
 - Weather Patterns
 - Climate
 - Extreme Weather Events: Hurricanes Tornadoes
- Astronomy and Space Science:
 - The Solar System
 - Stars
 - Galaxies
 - Space Exploration

Students will be introduced to:

- Developing and using models to explain Earth's systems and their interactions
- Analyzing and interpreting data on natural hazards and weather patterns
- Constructing explanations for changes in organisms over time
- Using mathematical and computational thinking to understand scale in space systems
- Constructing evidence-based arguments about human impact on the environment

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Asking questions and defining problems in Earth and Life Sciences
- Planning and carrying out investigations, including controlled experiments
- Analyzing and interpreting various forms of scientific data
- Using mathematics and computational thinking in scientific contexts
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating scientific information
- Applying scientific ideas to understand God's creation

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Develop and use models of Earth's systems to explain phenomena
- Analyze and interpret data on weather, climate, and natural hazards
- Construct scientific explanations based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence organisms
- Design, conduct, and present an original science applying the scientific method
- Use mathematical representations to describe celestial motions and scale in the solar system
- Apply scientific principles to design solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Evaluate scientific ideas in light of Biblical teachings, recognizing the harmony between faith and science

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Science 6* (4th ed.) (BJU Press, 2020)
- *Science 6 Activity Manual* (4th ed.) (BJU Press, 2020)
- **Digital Tools:** Discovery Education and EdPuzzle

Science 7

Full Year (Grade 7)

This 7th grade Science course invites students to explore the intricate complexities of life, from the microscopic world of cells to the interconnected systems of the human body. Students will investigate God's remarkable design in living organisms, ranging from simple bacteria to complex plants and animals. Through collaborative laboratory experiments and in-class dissections, students will develop a sophisticated understanding of life processes, ecological interactions, and the principles of heredity. A highlight of the course is the analogy cell project, where students creatively represent cellular structures and functions, deepening their comprehension of these fundamental units of life. The course culminates in a comprehensive research project on human body systems, challenging students to synthesize their knowledge and present findings in a scientific format. Throughout the year, students will hone their critical thinking skills and gain a deeper appreciation for the wonders of God's creation at every level of biological organization.

Key Scientific Concepts Taught:

- Cell Theory, Cell structure and function
- Classification of living organisms
- Energy flow in ecosystems
- Microorganisms and their roles
- Plant structure and photosynthesis
- Human body systems
- Dissections - frog and shark

- Principles of heredity and genetics

Students will be introduced to:

- Examining cellular structures and processes using microscopes
- Creating classification systems for organisms
- Modeling energy transfers in food webs
- Investigating factors influencing trait expression
- Researching the connections between human body systems

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Developing models to explain biological processes
- Designing and conducting experiments with multiple variables
- Analyzing and interpreting scientific data
- Creating graphs from data
- Using mathematical models in scientific contexts
- Evaluating scientific explanations with evidence
- Connecting scientific concepts with Biblical perspectives

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Explain how cell structures contribute to life functions
- Describe matter and energy flow in ecosystems
- Use evidence to explain how factors influence organism growth and adaptation
- Identify patterns in embryological development across species
- Design and conduct an experiment on plant growth or animal behavior
- Create and present a research project on human body systems
- Predict and explain outcomes of genetic crosses
- Reflect on the complexity of living systems in relation to God's design

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Life Science* (5th ed.) (BJU Press, 2019)
- *Life Science Activity Manual* (5th ed.) (BJU Press, 2019)
- *Case for a Creator* by Lee Strobel
- **Digital Tools:** Discovery Education and Nearpod

Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC)

Full Year (Grade 8)

IPC is a comprehensive high school credit course that seamlessly blends physics and chemistry concepts, offering 8th-grade students an advanced exploration of the physical sciences. Through hands-on experiments, STEAM-based projects, and digital simulations, students will investigate the fundamental principles governing our physical world. Key projects include designing LED-lit cards with parallel circuits, constructing 3-D Bohr models, and conducting an egg drop experiment to study forces and motion. Advanced students will have the opportunity to code atomic simulations in JavaScript and analyze rocket launches using physics principles. This course emphasizes practical applications and real-world problem-solving, preparing students for future scientific study while fostering an appreciation for God's intricate design of the universe.

Key Scientific Concepts Taught:

- Properties and structure of matter
- Introduction to atomic structure and the periodic table
- Chemical reactions and changes in matter
- Newton's laws of motion
- Energy types and transformations
- Forces and Motion

- Electrical circuits
- Javascript Coding

Students will be introduced to:

- Using the scientific method to design and conduct experiments
- Applying mathematical models to describe physical and chemical phenomena
- Analyzing atomic structure and its relationship to chemical properties
- Investigating energy transformations in various systems
- Analyzing simultaneous forces within a system

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Collecting, analyzing, and interpreting scientific data
- Converting metric units
- Calculator literacy including operations with scientific notation
- Mathematical literacy with calculations using scientific formulae
- Developing and using models to explain scientific concepts
- Applying critical thinking skills to solve real-world scientific problems
- Using appropriate laboratory equipment and technology safely and effectively
- Communicating scientific findings through various formats (written, oral, and digital)
- Recognizing the interplay between scientific discovery and Biblical understanding of creation
- Applying the engineering design process

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Analyze the properties of matter and explain how they relate to atomic structure
- Balance chemical equations and predict the outcomes of chemical reactions
- Calculate and interpret motion graphs, including position, velocity, and acceleration
- Apply Newton's laws to explain the motion of objects in various scenarios
- Design and conduct experiments to investigate energy transformations
- Collect, graph and analyze data from an experiment
- Apply the engineering design process
- Create and present a STEAM project that integrates multiple IPC concepts
- Reflect on how the study of physical sciences deepens our appreciation of God's creation

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Physical Science* (6th ed.) (BJU Press, 2020)
- *Physical Science Student Lab Manual* (6th ed.) (BJU Press, 2020)
- **Digital Tools:** PhET Activities, BrainPOP, and Codehs.com

STEAM and Computer Science

The Middle School STEAM and Computer Science Department affirms that creativity, logic, and innovation reflect the image of our Creator, who designed us to be problem-solvers and stewards of His world. We cultivate a project-based, hands-on environment where students explore the connections between science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics, applying their God-given talents to design, build, and innovate with purpose.

Our approach emphasizes inquiry, collaboration, and real-world application. Students are intentionally shown how to use **methodology** in their learning—employing design thinking and an algorithmic mindset to plan, implement, test, refine, and reevaluate their ideas. By engaging in this structured yet creative process, students learn to think critically, embrace challenges, and develop resilience—qualities that will serve them both academically and spiritually. We encourage them to see technology not only as a tool for advancement but also as a means of serving others and glorifying God through creative solutions.

Our students will:

- Engage in project-based learning that encourages curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving
- Apply coding, design, and engineering concepts to authentic, real-world challenges

- Collaborate in teams, valuing diverse ideas and developing communication and leadership skills
- Practice perseverance and adaptability when facing complex or open-ended tasks
- Explore how innovation and technology can be used to serve others and reflect Biblical values of stewardship and creativity
- Cultivate digital wisdom by balancing innovation with responsibility, integrity, and discernment

Through this program, students gain more than technical skills—they learn to approach challenges with a spirit of innovation rooted in faith, preparing them to use their knowledge and creativity to impact the world for Christ.

Computer Enrichment

(1 Quarter) Grade 5

Computer Enrichment is a required enrichment course for all fifth-grade students, meeting for 9 weeks (1 quarter) during the school year. This course introduces students to the fundamentals of technology, typing, coding, and design thinking through engaging, hands-on experiences. Emphasis is placed on digital literacy, keyboarding fluency, creative problem-solving, and responsible technology use, helping students understand how computers process information and how they can use technology to serve others and honor God. Students build foundational keyboarding skills, explore coding through block-based and text-based platforms, and are introduced to artificial intelligence and 3D design.

Students will be introduced to:

- Digital citizenship: safe, ethical, and responsible technology use
- Keyboarding and typing: students spend 20 minutes each day building accuracy, speed, and proper technique through Typesy, with weekly goals to track and celebrate their progress; additional Typesy practice is assigned as homework
- Computer basics: hardware components, care, and how computers process information
- Algorithms and computational thinking: step-by-step problem solving
- Foundations of programming through CodeHS (block-based intro leading into Python basics)
- Artificial intelligence: what AI is, how it learns from data, and how Christians can evaluate its uses through a Biblical worldview
- 3D modeling and design with Tinkercad

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Applying computational thinking to break down and solve problems
- Practicing precision and perseverance when debugging code
- Using creativity and collaboration in project-based work
- Safely and effectively operating digital tools and equipment
- Communicating ideas clearly in written and digital formats

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate responsible digital citizenship and care for devices
- Type with improved accuracy, speed, and proper hand placement, meeting grade-level keyboarding goals
- Explain how computers process information at a basic level
- Write and run simple programs using CodeHS
- Create and test algorithms to solve specific challenges
- Describe what artificial intelligence is and discuss its uses and limitations from a Biblical worldview
- Design a 3D model using Tinkercad
- Reflect on how creativity and technology can be used to serve others and honor God

Resources Used:

- Typesy (keyboarding practice, in-class and homework),
- CodeHS (block-based and Python intro)
- Tinkercad (3D modeling)

STEAM 6

(Full Year) Grades 6

STEAM 6 is an elective course designed for students who enjoy combining creativity and innovation with critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication. This course challenges students to engage deeply in project-based learning while exploring the real-world applications of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Students will investigate fundamental scientific concepts such as atoms, molecules, mass, volume, density, and gravitational forces, and apply them through hands-on experiments, engineering challenges, and design projects. A strong emphasis is placed on observation, journaling, and reflection, helping students see how God's intelligent design is revealed throughout creation.

Students will be introduced to:

- Atoms, molecules, mass, volume, density, and gravitational forces
- Scientific observation and journaling: recording data, objectives, notes, diagrams, and reflections
- Measurement concepts: circumference, diameter, and volume through hands-on activities (e.g., avocado seed investigations)
- Photosynthesis, plant cells, chlorophyll, and respiration in trees
- Application of tannins and their chemical/physical reactions (e.g., dyeing leather)
- Acids, bases, and pH in water, leaves, and the environment

- Fungi and mycelium: classification, exponential growth, and the Fibonacci sequence as evidence of God's order in creation
- Engineering applications: growing and molding mycelium, creating structures, testing strength, and exploring physics of design
- The design thinking process as a framework for solving real-world problems

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Applying the scientific method and engineering design process to projects
- Practicing accurate measurement and mathematical literacy in experiments
- Developing scientific literacy through journaling and data analysis
- Making cross-disciplinary connections between science, math, engineering, and art
- Recognizing evidence of God's intelligent design in the natural world

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Accurately measure and calculate mass, volume, circumference, diameter, and density
- Conduct and record observations in a structured scientific journal
- Explain the processes of photosynthesis and respiration in plants
- Analyze the chemical and physical properties of tannins and their applications
- Test and compare the pH of different natural substances and environments
- Classify fungi and describe their unique characteristics and growth patterns
- Apply the Fibonacci sequence to natural phenomena as a reflection of God's design
- Design and create molded mycelium structures, test their strength, and evaluate industrial applications
- Collaborate effectively to complete multi-step projects that integrate multiple STEAM disciplines
- Reflect on how scientific inquiry, creativity, and engineering demonstrate God's plan and purpose in creation

Resources Used:

- Teacher-created videos and curated YouTube content
- Scientific equipment: vacuum pumps, beakers, Bunsen burners, ropes, and pulleys
- 3D printers and molds for engineering projects
- Lab journals for documentation and reflection

Computer Science Fundamentals

(Full Year) Grade 6

This full-year course builds upon the foundational skills introduced in 5th Grade Computer Science Enrichment. Students will deepen their understanding of how God has gifted humans with creativity and problem-solving abilities and how these gifts can be used to serve others through technology. They will learn what computers are, how they process information, and why they are valuable tools in today's world. Students will engage in hands-on learning experiences, exploring both digital and analog systems, circuits, and basic programming concepts. They will also practice responsible digital citizenship as they navigate the ethical use of technology.

Students will be introduced to:

- The nature and purpose of computers as tools for solving problems and serving others
- The concept of algorithms, including what they are and how to design them

- How computers process information using binary systems, and the difference between digital and analog thinking
- Digital citizenship topics, including privacy, cyberbullying, safe password practices, and responsible online communication
- Practical technology tools such as word processors, spreadsheets, and collaborative platforms like Google Workspace
- The basics of computer programming using JavaScript and introductory Python
- 3D modeling and design for 3D printing and laser cutting using Tinkercad and Fusion 360
- Foundational concepts of Artificial Intelligence, including its ethical use, avoiding plagiarism, and using AI as a learning tool

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Applying computational thinking and problem-solving skills with perseverance and integrity
- Writing and debugging code while developing an understanding of correct syntax and its structural role, drawing parallels to grammar rules in language arts.
- Practicing ethical and Christlike behavior in digital spaces
- Collaborating with peers on design challenges that integrate creativity, innovation, and service to others
- Identifying coding errors and reflecting on mistakes as opportunities for growth

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Explain how computers process and organize information to solve problems
- Design and evaluate algorithms and write basic programs in JavaScript and Python
- Demonstrate safe and responsible digital citizenship and apply basic Cybersecurity principles
- Create and present 3D printed and laser-cut prototypes that offer practical solutions to everyday problems
- Apply ethical reasoning and biblical discernment when using AI and digital tools

Resources Used:

- Class iPads, Google Chromebooks, Windows computers
- Java, Python, JavaScript, C++
- Tinkercad
- Laser cutter and 3D printer

STEAM 7

(Full Year) Grades 7

STEAM 7 is an elective course designed for students who are eager to extend their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics through advanced project-based learning. Building upon foundations from STEAM 6, this course challenges students to think critically about real-world issues such as water scarcity, pathogens, and sustainable engineering, while also exploring advanced physical science concepts. Through hands-on experiments, coding, robotics, and engineering design, students strengthen their creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration skills. A Biblical perspective is integrated throughout, reminding students that all creation originates from God and reflects His purposeful design.

Students will be introduced to:

- The periodic table at a deeper level: understanding that all created matter is composed of the same God-given elements
- Criteria for life: exploring viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and the debate about whether viruses are “living” or “non-living”
- Water science: global distribution of water, potable vs. non-potable water, water purification, and the impact of pathogens
- Scientific scale: comparing viruses and bacteria, practicing measurement with scientific notation, and creating artistic scale models
- Aerodynamics: principles of flight, spacecraft design, and rocket building
- PSI (pounds per square inch): testing forces and material strength
- States of matter: sublimation demonstrations using dry ice
- Earthquake engineering: designing and testing earthquake-resistant structures (architectural seismology)
- Robotics and coding: programming robotic arms and exploring VEX robotics challenges
- Astronomy: scale of the solar system, speed of light, and perspective of Earth’s place in the universe

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Applying the scientific method and engineering design process to increasingly complex problems
- Practicing scale, measurement, and scientific notation with accuracy
- Using mathematics to model physical and biological systems
- Designing and testing structures and models for strength, resilience, and function
- Communicating findings effectively through models, diagrams, written work, and presentations
- Exploring scientific and philosophical questions through a Biblical lens, recognizing God as the source of all creation

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Explain the structure of the periodic table and its role in understanding matter
- Analyze and compare viruses, bacteria, and protozoa, using scale and scientific notation
- Evaluate water samples for potability and suggest methods for purification
- Build and test rockets to explore principles of aerodynamics and propulsion
- Apply PSI and force measurements in testing materials and designs
- Design and evaluate earthquake-resistant structures through hands-on experimentation
- Program and operate robotic devices, including robotic arms and VEX robots
- Describe the properties of matter and observe state changes through demonstrations (e.g., sublimation)
- Understand Earth’s place in the solar system and calculate the scale of astronomical distances
- Reflect on how scientific discoveries and engineering solutions reveal God’s order, creativity, and care for His creation

Resources Used:

- VEX Robotics kits
- Robotic arms for coding and automation projects
- Scientific equipment: dry ice for demonstrations, measurement tools, building materials for structures
- Teacher-created and curated videos and digital resources
- Lab journals for recording data and reflections

Computer Science Discovery

(Full Year) Grades 7 & 8

This full-year course builds upon the foundational skills from Computer Science Fundamentals (Grade 6) and challenges students to engage in deeper, more complex applications of computer science concepts. Sixth grade computer science is not a prerequisite; instruction is differentiated to support students at varying experience levels. Students will explore how God has gifted humanity with creativity, logic, and innovation and how these gifts can be used to design solutions that serve others and glorify Him. Students will advance their understanding of digital and analog systems, circuits, and computer logic while applying mathematical reasoning and abstract thinking to design projects. They will also examine the ethical use of technology and strengthen their digital citizenship skills as they create increasingly sophisticated digital and physical products.

Students will be introduced to:

- Advanced applications of digital and analog signals and their role in computer circuits
- Logic and programming using C++ (an object-oriented programming language)
- Parametric design concepts in Autodesk Fusion, incorporating formulas, constraints, and applied geometry
- Measurement systems, tolerances, and blueprint creation, including side views, isometric views, and 3D modeling techniques
- The difference between additive manufacturing (3D printing) and subtractive manufacturing (CNC milling machine)
- Foundational algebraic thinking as it applies to variables, parameters, and formulas within design processes

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Applying computational thinking to solve complex, real-world problems
- Writing and debugging increasingly sophisticated code while understanding the structural role of syntax
- Practicing integrity, discernment, and Christlike behavior in digital spaces
- Applying mathematical and spatial reasoning to 3D modeling and engineering design
- Collaborating on open-ended design challenges that require creativity, perseverance, and critical thinking
- Artificial Intelligence and ethical decision-making

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Explain and apply advanced principles of circuits, logic, and information processing
- Design and build complex 3D models in Autodesk Fusion using parametric design techniques
- Demonstrate understanding of manufacturing processes, including 3D printing and CNC milling
- Write and debug programs in Java, Python, and C++
- Demonstrate ethical and responsible use of technology and apply biblical principles to decision-making in digital environments

Resources Used:

- Autodesk Fusion and Tinkercad
- Class iPads
- Java, Python, C++
- Laser cutter, 3D printer, and CNC milling machine

World Languages

Our World Languages program recognizes that language learning is about more than vocabulary and grammar—it's about building bridges between communities and hearts. We see language as a powerful tool for connecting with others, whether through spoken words or sign language, enabling our students to share God's love across cultural and communication barriers.

Our mission is to develop confident communicators who can engage authentically with Spanish-speaking and Deaf communities while sharing their faith and values.

We believe that effective world language education should:

- **Build Strong Foundations:** Teaching essential language skills through immersive experiences, knowing that even a simple greeting can open doors to meaningful relationships.
- **Develop Cultural Understanding:** Embracing and respecting the diverse heritage of Spanish-speaking families and Deaf culture in our community.
- **Encourage Active Practice:** Creating opportunities for authentic conversation and connection, recognizing that language learning is a journey of growth.
- **Center on Scripture:** Integrating Bible verses and Christian principles into language learning and practice
- **Prepare for Future Success:** Equipping students with language skills for college, careers, and Kingdom work.

Through our program, students grow in proficiency in their language skills while discovering their greater purpose—building relationships, breaking down barriers, and sharing God's love across cultures. Whether through Spanish or American Sign Language, we prepare students to excel academically while being bridges in our diverse world.

Spanish Enrichment

(1 Quarter) Grade 5

Spanish Enrichment is a required course for all fifth-grade students that meets for 9 weeks during the school year. Building on the weekly Spanish experiences students enjoyed in lower school, this course strengthens foundational vocabulary and listening skills while introducing students to short conversational exchanges and cultural connections from across the Spanish-speaking world. Lessons are visually engaging and hands-on, using songs, games, partner activities, and cultural exploration to help students grow in confidence and prepare for the more structured study of Spanish in sixth grade.

Students will be introduced to:

- Greetings, introductions, and polite expressions
- Numbers 1–50 and the Spanish alphabet, with a focus on pronunciation
- Colors, classroom objects, and common everyday vocabulary
- Family members and basic descriptions of people
- Days of the week, months, and seasons
- Simple weather expressions
- Basic food and drink vocabulary
- Subject pronouns and an early introduction to how Spanish sentences are formed
- Geography of Spanish-speaking countries
- Hispanic cultural celebrations, including Hispanic Heritage Month and traditions from various Spanish-speaking countries

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Pronunciation and listening skills
- Recognizing familiar Spanish vocabulary in spoken and written form
- Building confidence to speak aloud in short conversational exchanges
- Cultural awareness and appreciation of Spanish-speaking countries
- Biblical connections to language learning and God's heart for all nations
- Vocabulary development through songs, games, and interactive activities

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Greet others and introduce themselves in Spanish
- Identify common objects, colors, and numbers in Spanish
- Name family members and describe basic information about themselves
- Use simple phrases to describe the weather, days, and seasons
- Recognize and pronounce the Spanish alphabet
- Identify several Spanish-speaking countries and key cultural traditions
- Recognize connections between Spanish and English vocabulary (cognates)
- Reflect on how learning another language helps us love and serve others as God calls us to do

Resources Used:

- Teacher-created materials and visuals
- Nearpod
- Spanish education videos and songs from approved online sources

- Hands-on cultural activities and games

Introduction to Spanish

(Full Year) Grade 6

Intro to Spanish is a course for sixth-grade students and introduces the students to conversational Spanish. The presentation is both visually focused and topical in content with cultural connections built into the lesson components.

Students will be introduced to:

- Greetings and basic conversation phrases
- Numbers 1-100 and the Spanish alphabet
- Colors and classroom objects vocabulary
- Family members vocabulary
- School-related vocabulary
- Days of the week, months, and seasons
- Weather expressions
- Basic food vocabulary
- Simple regular verb conjugations (-AR verbs)
- Subject pronouns
- Definite and indefinite articles
- Hispanic cultural celebrations (Hispanic Heritage Month, Cinco de Mayo)

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Pronunciation skills
- Listening comprehension
- Basic conversational exchanges
- Proper noun-adjective agreement
- Cultural awareness and appreciation
- Biblical connections to language learning
- Development of vocabulary through songs, games, and activities

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Introduce themselves and others in Spanish
- Identify common objects, colors, and numbers in Spanish
- Describe weather, dates, and seasons using simple phrases
- Express likes and dislikes using basic vocabulary
- Ask and answer simple questions about familiar topics
- Demonstrate understanding of basic Spanish grammar concepts
- Recognize connections between Spanish and English vocabulary
- Identify cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking countries
- Connect biblical verses to language learning (Matthew 5:16, Psalm 139:14, Genesis 8:22)

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Spanish is Fun, Book 1* (Perfection Learning, 2016)
- **Digital Tools:** Nearpod
- Various Spanish education videos from Youtube

Intermediate Spanish

(Full Year) Grade 7; Grade 8

Intermediate Spanish is a course for seventh grade students and for eighth grade students who are not enrolled in the Spanish course for high school credit. The students will gain understanding of Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and culture.

Students will be introduced to:

- Similarities and differences between English and Spanish
- Body vocabulary (El Cuerpo) and the verb "Tener"
- Home vocabulary (Mi Casa) and possessive adjectives
- Food vocabulary (La Comida) and the verb "Gustar"
- Clothing vocabulary (La Ropa) and the verb "Llevar"
- Animal vocabulary (Los Animales) and the verb "Decir"
- Regular verb conjugations (-AR, -ER, -IR verbs)
- Irregular verb conjugations (hacer, ir)
- Prepositions in Spanish
- Demonstrative adjectives (ese, esa, este, esta)
- Spanish cultural celebrations (La Navidad, Cinco de Mayo)
- Biblical verses in Spanish (e.g., Deuteronomy 6:5)

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Greetings and conversational phrases
- Numbers, alphabet, and colors
- Gender and plurals of nouns
- Calendar vocabulary and weather expressions
- Subject pronouns and verb conjugations
- Cultural awareness of Spanish-speaking countries
- Biblical integration through memory verses and applications
- Practical application of vocabulary in real-life contexts
- Listening and speaking skills through interactive activities
- Reading and writing in Spanish with proper grammar

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Engage in basic conversations in Spanish with proper grammar
- Describe themselves, their home, food preferences, and clothing
- Use regular and key irregular verbs in present tense
- Demonstrate understanding of gender and number agreement
- Express likes and dislikes using the verb "gustar"
- Apply possessive adjectives correctly in sentences
- Recognize and use prepositions appropriately
- Identify cultural elements of Spanish-speaking countries
- Recite memorized Scripture verses in Spanish
- Ask and answer questions about familiar topics
- Demonstrate increased vocabulary acquisition in multiple contexts

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Spanish is Fun Book 2* (Perfection Learning, 2016)
- **Digital Tools:** Wayground

Spanish I

(Full Year) Grade 8

Students who qualify are determined by a rubric based on the following: general academic and self-management performance and teacher recommendation.

First-year Spanish students will develop knowledge of the language while being introduced to Spanish-speaking cultures. Students will use the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing to learn the language. They will learn to appreciate Spanish culture and will participate in cultural events. Reading will be introduced at the level of beginner books. The students will acquire vocabulary, fundamental grammar, and communication skills predominantly in the present tense. Eighth graders may take this course to receive a high school credit but no grade points.

Students will be introduced to:

- Basic greetings and conversational phrases
- Numbers, dates, time, and calendar
- Cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking countries
- Regular and stem-changing verbs
- Reflexive Verbs
- Present Progressive
- Object pronouns
- Comparisons
- Familiar affirmative and negative commands
- Basic vocabulary for family, school, free time activities, food, clothing and daily routines

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Present tense verb conjugations (-ar, -er, -ir verbs)
- Noun/adjective agreement
- Basic sentence structure
- Foundational grammar concepts (ser/estar, present tense verbs)

• Forming questions • Cultural comparisons
By year's end, students will be able to: • Conduct basic conversations in Spanish • Describe people, places, and things • Discuss daily activities and schedules • Order food and discuss meals • Express likes and dislikes • Compare and contrast • Negotiate a price and buying • Give familiar commands • Use regular preterite tense verbs
Resources Used: • <i>Descubre (Level 1)</i> (Vista Higher Learning, 2022)

American Sign Language I (ASL)
(Full Year) Grade 8 <i>Students who qualify are determined by a rubric based on the following: general academic and self-management performance and teacher recommendation.</i> This course is designed for students who have a specific interest in learning to sign, who may be planning careers that will be enhanced by being able to use and understand ASL, and students who would like to learn another language. Receptive, expressive, and interactive communication will be introduced, with emphasis on culture and language skills. Signing proficiency is assessed regularly. ASL is a visual language and is taught without voice. Students who are primarily auditory learners may experience difficulties. <i>Eighth grade students will receive one high school foreign language credit, but no grade points, upon successful completion of this course and an exit examination. The course must be passed with a minimum grade of 75 and final exam grade of 70.</i>
Students will be introduced to: • Fingerspelling • Basic conversation skills (introductions, personal information) • Deaf culture and history • Home and surroundings vocabulary • Family descriptions • School-related vocabulary • Hobbies and activities vocabulary • Spiritual and religious Vocabulary • Music interpretation in ASL

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Weekly dialogue preparation and demonstrations
- Fingerspelling accuracy
- Cultural sensitivity and awareness
- Proper handshapes and sign production
- Non Manual Behaviors
- Parameters of ASL

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Introduce themselves and understand others' introductions
- Describe family, home, and personal interests
- Engage in basic conversations about school and activities
- Demonstrate understanding of Deaf culture and history
- Interpret songs and scripture into ASL
- Approach and converse with Deaf individuals comfortably

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Master ASL! Level 1* (Sign Enhancers, Inc, 2006)
- *Signing Naturally* (Dawn Sign Press, 1988)
- **Websites:** Lifepoint.com and ASL.MS
- **Documentary Films:** *See What I Mean* (1992) and *Sound and Fury* (2000)
- YouTube videos for signed songs
- **Digital Tools:** Padlet

Arts & Media

At FBCA, we believe artistic expression is rooted in the truth that we are made in the image of God. Because God is the Creator, human creativity is not accidental; it is a reflection of His nature in us. Art, therefore, is never merely self-expression but something that carries meaning and reveals what we believe to be true about the world. For this reason, we understand artistic work as something that is ultimately meant to serve the glory of God under the Lordship of Christ (1 Cor. 10:31). This does not limit creativity but gives it direction. Art is called to reflect what is true, good, and beautiful, even as it honestly engages the realities of a broken world. While art may depict struggle or brokenness, its aim is not to glorify sin but to help us see more clearly the difference between what is fallen and what is good and to stir within us a longing for redemption. In this way, artistic expression can become one of God's ordinary means of drawing us nearer to Himself, shaping our imaginations so that we learn to dwell on what is excellent and praiseworthy, as Philippians 4:8 calls us to do.

Visual Arts

Art Appreciation

(1 quarter) Grade 5

This 9-week 5th grade Art Appreciation course introduces students to the language of visual art and the artists who have used it to tell stories, celebrate creation, and express faith throughout history. Through class discussions and hands-on projects, students explore the foundational elements of art and discover how they come together to create meaningful works. Students create original pieces inspired by renowned artists. A biblical lens is woven through several key lessons, inviting students to consider creativity as a gift from God and to see how art has expressed faith and gratitude across the centuries. Emphasis is placed on observation, reflection, and the understanding that each student is uniquely created by God with their own artistic voice. This course encourages thankfulness, wonder, and creativity, inviting students to see the world around them as part of God's beautiful design.

Key Artistic Concepts Taught:

- Elements of Art: Line, Shape, Color, Texture, and Value
- Principles of Design: Balance and Contrast
- Color theory, warm and cool colors
- Drawing from observation
- Introduction to 2D media (with light exposure to 3D)
- Introduction to Christian symbolism in art

Students will be introduced to:

- Looking closely at and discussing works of art using beginner art vocabulary
- Identifying the elements of art in famous works and in their own
- Exploring Biblical themes such as creation, gratitude, and storytelling through art
- Creating art inspired by scripture, nature, and personal experiences

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Demonstrating an understanding of the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, value)
- Discussing artwork using art vocabulary (composition, foreground, background, mood, subject, balance, contrast, warm/cool colors, value, texture)
- Creating original works that reflect personal and Biblical themes
- Showing care, thought, and purpose in the materials they use
- Reflecting on how creativity is a gift from God and can be used for His glory

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Identify and use several types of lines in drawings
- Create a basic value scale and apply value to show form
- Mix colors and create a simple color wheel
- Distinguish between warm and cool colors and the moods they create
- Apply texture in their artwork
- Recognize Christian symbolism in historical works of art
- Discuss a piece of art using art vocabulary (composition, foreground, background, mood, subject, balance, contrast, warm/cool colors, value, texture)

Resources Used:

- Teacher-created visual aids and project examples
- Sketchbooks practice and drawing prompts
- Reproductions of famous artworks (Christian and secular)
- Select Bible verses and devotionals for art inspiration
- Videos and demonstrations (teacher-led and age-appropriate art instruction media)

Art 6

(Full Year) Grade 6

This 6th-grade Art course introduces students to foundational artistic techniques while encouraging them to see art as a reflection of God's creation and an opportunity for personal and spiritual expression. Students will explore various art forms and materials, developing their skills in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. They will learn to observe the world around them, create with intention, and appreciate the beauty in their surroundings, all while considering how their art can reflect their faith.

Key Art Concepts Taught:

- Elements of Art: line, shape, color, texture, form, space, value
- Introduction to the Principles of Design: emphasis, contrast, balance, rhythm, and unity
- Techniques in drawing, painting, and sculpture
- Art appreciation: examining different styles and cultural influences in art
- The role of art in worship and as a form of Christian expression

Students will be introduced to:

- Basic drawing techniques using pencil, charcoal, and ink
- Color theory and mixing with acrylic and watercolors
- Creating simple sculptures using clay, paper mâché, and other materials
- Exploring the connection between art and faith, focusing on themes like creation, light, and redemption
- Recognizing symbolism in art and how it has been used to convey Christian messages throughout history

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Building confidence in their ability to create and express ideas visually
- Refining technical skills in different mediums
- Developing problem-solving skills through the creative process
- Critiquing their own work and the work of others in a positive and constructive manner
- Reflecting on the role of art in their spiritual growth and understanding of God's creation
- Learning to see the beauty in both their own art and the art of others, as a reflection of God's creativity

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Understand and apply the elements of art in their creations
Use basic principles of design to create balanced and visually engaging works
- Create both two-dimensional and three-dimensional art using a variety of techniques and materials
- Analyze and appreciate works of art from different cultures and Christian traditions
- Create art projects that reflect personal faith and values, incorporating Christian themes and symbols
- Collaborate with peers on group art projects, fostering community and teamwork
- Present a final project that demonstrates their artistic growth and understanding of art as a form of worship

Resources Used:

- Art history and appreciation resources with a focus on Christian art and symbolism
- Sketchbooks, paints, clay, and mixed media materials
- The Bible as a source for themes and reflection
- Visual aids, digital art tools, and instructional videos on artistic techniques

Art 7**(1 Semester or Full Year) Grade 7**

This 7th-grade Art course invites students to engage deeply with creative expression, emphasizing how art reflects God's beauty and order in creation. Students will explore a variety of artistic techniques and mediums, learning to express their unique perspectives while drawing inspiration from the world around them. Throughout the year, students will develop their technical skills, conceptual thinking, and ability to interpret and analyze works of art.

Key Art Concepts Taught: • Elements of Art (line, shape, color, texture, space, form, value) • Principles of Design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, unity) • Artistic techniques in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and mixed media • Art appreciation: analyzing and critiquing art from different cultures and time periods • Exploring Christian symbolism in art and the use of light to represent God's presence Collaborative art projects that build community and reflect Biblical themes
Students Will Be Introduced To: • Drawing with an emphasis on observation and perspective • Painting techniques using acrylics, watercolors, and oil pastels • Sculptural forms using clay and found objects • Mixed media projects combining various materials to create texture and meaning • Studying the works of renowned artists • Exploring religious iconography and symbolism in art history
Continued Reinforcement Will Be Placed On: • Developing technical skills in various artistic mediums • Using the creative process: planning, sketching, creating, and refining • Critiquing art using constructive feedback • Understanding the impact of visual art in communicating messages • Connecting art with personal and spiritual reflection • Exploring how art can be a form of worship and expression of gratitude to God
By Year's End, Students Will Be Able To: • Demonstrate proficiency in drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture techniques • Analyze and interpret art using formal elements and principles of design • Create art that reflects both personal expression and Christian themes • Develop an understanding of how artists throughout history have used their work to communicate faith • Use art as a way to explore and express the beauty of God's creation • Participate in a culminating art project that showcases their growth as artists and reflects their understanding of art as a gift from God
Resources Used: • Art history textbooks and online resources • Visual examples of Christian art through the ages • Hands-on materials: sketchpads, paints, clay, found objects, etc. • Digital tools for creating and presenting art

Art 8
(1 Semester or Full Year) Grade 8 This 8th-grade Art course builds upon foundational skills while encouraging students to explore deeper personal and spiritual themes in their work. Students will refine their technical abilities and experiment with more advanced materials and concepts. The course emphasizes the role of art in communicating

complex ideas, emotions, and faith-based reflections. Through hands-on projects, art critiques, and studies in art history, students will learn to express their individuality while seeing their creativity as a gift from God.

Key Art Concepts Taught:

- Advanced use of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design
- In-depth exploration of various artistic techniques (drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, mixed media)
- Art history: understanding how art movements have influenced Christian art and vice versa
- Interpreting and analyzing art: learning to critique using formal vocabulary
- The role of narrative in art: creating visual stories that reflect Christian themes or Biblical stories
- Basics of writing artist statements

Students will be introduced to:

- Advanced drawing techniques, including perspective, shading, and figure drawing
- Advanced Acrylic painting techniques
- Sculpting with clay and other three-dimensional materials
- Printmaking and collage as methods of creating layers of meaning
- Basics of digital photography
- The use of symbolism and metaphor in art to convey deeper spiritual messages
- Studying how artists have represented faith, spirituality, and the human experience across time periods and cultures
- Creating art that reflects on Christian values such as faith, hope, redemption, and service
- Note: Some art projects will be geared towards competitions.

Continued Reinforcement Will Be Placed On:

- Developing personal style and voice in their artwork
- Strengthening technical skills across multiple mediums
- Engaging in meaningful art critiques that foster growth and understanding
- Using the creative process to express complex ideas, emotions, and spiritual reflections
- Encouraging personal and spiritual reflection in the art-making process
- Understanding how art can be a powerful tool for communication and ministry
- Collaborative projects that focus on community building and shared spiritual expression

By Year's End, Students Will Be Able To:

- Demonstrate proficiency in various artistic techniques, including drawing, painting, and sculpture
Analyze, interpret, and critique works of art, using appropriate terminology
- Create art that reflects both personal expression and Christian themes
- Develop and execute a long-term project, showcasing their artistic growth and technical skill
- Understand and articulate how art can reflect the beauty, complexity, and message of God's creation
- Produce a portfolio of works that demonstrate technical proficiency, creative expression, and spiritual reflection
- Present a final project or art installation that engages the viewer

Resources Used:

- Art history resources, with a focus on how faith has influenced art movements

- Advanced art materials: sketchbooks, oil and acrylic paints, clay, printmaking tools
- The Bible as a source for themes and inspiration
- Visual examples of Christian art, symbolism, and narrative in art history
- Digital tools for creating and presenting artwork

Band

Music Appreciation

(1 quarter) Grades 5

This 9-week 5th-grade Music Appreciation course introduces students to the language of music and the rich tradition of music-making across history, cultures, and faith. Through active listening, class discussions, hands-on instrument playing, and reflective journaling, students explore the foundational elements of music and discover how composers and musicians use them to tell stories, express emotion, and worship. Roughly half the course is spent listening to and discussing music from a variety of styles and time periods, and the other half is spent learning to play a variety of percussion instruments. A biblical lens is woven through several key lessons, inviting students to consider music as a gift from God and to see how it has been used throughout Scripture and church history to praise, lament, celebrate, and proclaim. Emphasis is placed on listening, participation, and the understanding that each student is uniquely created by God with their own musical voice. Lessons are broken into shorter, varied segments to keep students engaged, moving between listening, discussion, playing, and reflection.

Key Music Concepts Taught:

- Elements of Music: Melody, Rhythm, Harmony, Tempo, Dynamics, and Tone Color
- Beat, meter, and simple time signatures
- Reading beginner music notation (notes, rests, staff)
- Introduction to playing a melodic instrument (flutophone or ukulele)
- Introduction to music history and styles (classical, folk, hymns, spirituals, world music)
- Introduction to sacred music and the role of music in Scripture

Students will be introduced to:

- Listening closely to and discussing music using musical vocabulary (melody, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, mood, instrument families)
- Identifying the elements of music in pieces they hear
- Exploring Biblical themes such as praise, gratitude, and storytelling through music
- Performing simple songs on a beginner instrument
- Reading beginner notation and following along with written music
- Using a music journal to reflect on what they hear and learn

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Demonstrating an understanding of the elements of music (melody, rhythm, harmony, tempo, dynamics, tone color)
- Discussing music using musical vocabulary (melody, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, harmony, mood, pitch, beat)
- Performing simple pieces with care, focus, and proper technique
- Listening respectfully to performances by classmates and recorded musicians
- Reflecting on how music is a gift from God and can be used for His glory

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Identify the elements of music in pieces they hear
- Keep a steady beat and clap simple rhythms
- Read beginner notation on the staff
- Perform a few simple songs on the flutophone or ukulele
- Recognize a variety of musical styles, including sacred music, folk, and classical
- Identify common instruments by sight and sound
- Discuss a piece of music using musical vocabulary

Resources Used:

- Teacher-created listening guides and lesson materials
- Beginner instruments (flutophone or ukulele) and method books
- Music journals for listening responses and reflection
- Recordings of classical, folk, sacred, and world music
- Select Bible verses and devotionals for musical inspiration (Psalms, Colossians 3:16, etc.)
- Videos and demonstrations (teacher-led and age-appropriate music instruction media)

Beginning Band

(Full Year) Grades 6, 7, 8

Student and teacher will choose an instrument in the Spring.

This course introduces students to brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. Fundamentals of tone production and breath support, as well as reading music and basic music theory are covered. Private tutoring from competent instructors is encouraged for quickest development. This group performs at the Christmas and Spring Band Concerts.

Students will be introduced to:

- Instrument assembly and care
- Proper playing position and posture
- Tone production fundamentals
- Proper breathing techniques
- Basic articulation methods
- Music notation and symbols (note names, time signatures, clefs)
- Fundamentals of music theory
- Ensemble playing concepts

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Practice habits and discipline
- Listening skills and ear training
- Development of musical independence
- Concert etiquette and performance preparation
- Collaborative musicianship
- Music appreciation through varied repertoire

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate proper assembly, handling, and care of their instrument
- Produce a characteristic tone on their instrument
- Read and perform basic music notation
- Play simple pieces individually and as part of the ensemble
- Identify basic music terminology and symbols
- Perform successfully in the Christmas and Spring Band Concerts
- Demonstrate fundamental knowledge of music theory

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** *Essential Elements* for Band Book 1, Hal Leonard (2000)
- **Digital Tools:** Make Music Cloud
- Music theory worksheets and activities
- Rhythm training exercises
- Concert performance repertoire

Concert Band

(Full Year) Grades 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite – Beginning / Intermediate Band or Interview and Assessment

Concert Band II is designed to further develop the skills of the more advanced student who exhibits competency as a musician. Content will include additional technical facility, expand on tone and intonation development and music theory. The band performs several times per year; at the Christmas and Spring Band Concerts as well as at school athletic events and assemblies. The band also participates in band and percussion competitions for groups. This class performs with the percussion class as a marching band at all football games and marching competitions, as a pep band at upper school pep rallies, and as a concert band for contests, festivals, and concerts. Each such performance is graded.

Students will be introduced to:

- Intermediate-level music (Grade 1.5-2)
- Performance in a concert setting, athletic events, and competitions
- Advanced dynamics (pp, mp, ff, subito, fp)
- Advanced articulations (legato, clean note releases, tenuto)
- Swing feel in eighth notes when appropriate
- Syncopated rhythms of medium difficulty
- Sixteenth note combinations (four sixteenth notes, two sixteenth-eighth note and eighth-two sixteenth notes)
- Eighth note triplets
- Eighth rest on the beat
- Simple syncopation in duple patterns

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Fundamentals of Music and Musicianship
- Music terminology and symbols (dynamics, tempo, pitches, note names and types)
- Fundamentals of playing individual instruments (breathing, tone production, articulation)
- Musical styles and technical development
- Ensemble playing and team skills
- Steady air speed for woodwind and brass
- Consistent execution of stroke for percussion
- Playing instruments independently and in groups with accurate rhythm
- Counting and clapping rhythms to a steady beat

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Perform Intermediate-level music (Grade 1.5-2) proficiently
- Perform 4 Major Scales (Concert F, Bb, Eb, Ab) and Chromatic Scale with proper tone, pitch, and articulations
- Count sixteenth, eighth, quarter, half, whole notes and rests
- Count dotted half and quarter notes and rests
- Play and count syncopated rhythms of medium difficulty
- Play eighth notes with a "swing feel" when appropriate

- Apply standard symbols, terms, and notation to musical performance
- Perform intermediate level time signatures, dynamics, articulations, and tempo markings
- Demonstrate abilities in regular playing assessments
- Perform confidently in concert settings and competitions
- For percussion: Perform with consistent execution of stroke and reinforce major rudiments

Resources Used:

- **Textbook:** Essential Elements for Band, Book 2 (Hal Leonard, 2004)
- Intermediate-level music (Grade 1.5-2)
- Scale and technique exercises
- Rhythm training materials
- Performance assessment tools
- Concert and competition materials

Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship

(Full Year) Grade 7; Grade 8

Prerequisites: Acceptance by audition only.

**6th Grade musicians may also audition for MS Praise Team*

This course is designed to further develop the vocal, musical, and performance skills of students. This is done through classroom instruction, performances at chapel services in the Middle School, and semester performances both within the school and across the community. Students will work as a team to set up the sound system for performances and learn how to run it, and how to utilize and program within ProPresenter. Students will have a focus on leadership, creative expression, different music styles, evaluation of other philosophies of worship, and development of their biblical convictions to make them nimble and adaptable in the Body of Christ.

Students will be introduced to:

- Basic vocal techniques and instrument skills appropriate for worship songs
- Sound system setup and operation for chapel performances
- Foundations of worship through music with age-appropriate theological concepts
- Team collaboration and supportive feedback in a worship setting
- Prayer and devotional practices that connect music to faith
- Various worship music styles including contemporary Christian and traditional hymns
- ProPresenter software for displaying lyrics during worship

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Growing in musical skills and confidence during performances
- Developing teamwork and cooperation with fellow praise team members
- Understanding the purpose of worship in both personal and group settings
- Building spiritual leadership skills through simple devotionals and prayer
- Practicing regularly with commitment and dedication
- Creating a welcoming atmosphere during chapel performances

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Perform confidently in chapel services and special events
- Set up basic sound equipment with appropriate guidance
- Lead simple worship songs independently or in small groups
- Participate meaningfully in devotional times and prayer
- Demonstrate growth in musical ability and expression
- Show understanding of worship as an act of glorifying God
- Work as a team to create worshipful experiences for their peers

- Navigate ProPresenter for displaying worship lyrics

Resources Used:

- ProPresenter software
- Devotional materials and Scripture passages about worship
- Performance evaluations

Theatre

Theatre 7

(Full Year) Grade 7

At Fort Bend Christian Academy, we affirm that God created us for relationship, and one of the most powerful ways we live out that design is through stories. Theatre provides students with an opportunity to reflect the image of God as communicators, collaborators, and creators. Through dramatic expression, they learn to use their gifts for His glory and for the encouragement of others. The purpose and goal of theater are to develop effective storytelling skills through the use of the body, voice, mind, and emotion. Learning experiences will include history and relevance, movement, pantomime, improvisation, and character development. Students will explore monologue work, duet scenes, and produce a class play at the end of the school year, seeing performance as both a craft and a way to point to truth, beauty, and God's larger redemptive story.

Students will be introduced to:

- Parts of the stage and blocking notations
- Plot diagram structure and elements
- Character development through sensory and emotional recall, stock characters, and mask work
- Physical comedy and safe stage combat techniques
- World theatre history and its cultural impact
- Script writing and directing fundamentals
- Technical theatre elements (scenery, props, lighting, sound, costumes)
- Theatre career and vocational opportunities

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Voice and diction techniques for effective expression
- Safe use of the body and voice in performance
- Creating expressive and rhythmic movements
- Appropriate audience etiquette at performances
- Character portrayal through movement and dialogue
- Improvisation skills for scene development
- Using technology to enhance audio, visual, and lighting elements of a theatrical production

- Understanding theatre as a reflection of life and culture

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Perform a memorized monologue with developed characterization
- Create and perform original scenes using improvisation techniques
- Apply technical elements to support character and action in scenes
- Analyze and evaluate dramatic literature and performances
- Perform in a full-length play production
- Demonstrate proper vocal projection and physical expression
- Work collaboratively in ensemble performance settings

Resources Used:

- Monologue and scene collections
- Stage combat instructional materials
- World theatre history texts
- Technical theatre equipment and supplies
- Play scripts and performance recordings
- Theatre games and improvisation exercises

Advanced Theatre

(Full Year) Grade 8

In God's design, stories connect people and shape communities. Advanced Theatre invites students to explore how dramatic storytelling can communicate truth, stir imagination, and encourage others. As students study and practice theatre, they are challenged to use their voices, bodies, and creativity in ways that reflect their identity as image-bearers of a creative God. This full-year course expands upon foundational theatre skills, guiding students toward more sophisticated character portrayals, complex scenes, and deeper ensemble work. Alongside acting, students will take on scriptwriting, directing, and technical responsibilities, collaborating to bring a full production to life. Reflective journaling, script analysis, and performance projects help students grow in their ability to interpret theatre through both artistic and faith-filled lenses.

Students will be introduced to:

- Elizabethan theatre and Shakespeare's works
- Modern theatre history and influential movements
- Children's theatre techniques and performance adaptations
- Advanced improvisation challenges
- Musical theatre history and Broadway productions
- Independent project development and presentation
- Directorial roles and responsibilities
- Technical theatre design principles for scenery, lighting, sound, and costumes

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Theatrical vocabulary and terminology
- Character development using emotional and sensory recall
- Vocal production and effective diction

- Script analysis and dramatic structure
- Expressive movement to define space and characters
- Collaborative scene creation and performance
- Audio, visual, and lighting in theatrical productions
- Appropriate audience etiquette at performances

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Perform Shakespeare monologues with understanding and expression
- Write and perform original monologues that tell impactful stories
- Adapt performances for specific audiences (such as children)
- Participate in and complete advanced improvisation challenges
- Apply technical elements to establish mood and support characters
- Research and report on influential theatrical works and movements
- Direct peers in scene work with clear vision and communication
- Perform in a full-length play production with confidence

Resources Used:

- Shakespeare texts and modern adaptations
- One-act plays and scenes for performance
- Technical theatre equipment and design materials
- Broadway musical recordings and analysis materials
- Children's theatre scripts
- Improvisation prompts and exercises
- Performance evaluation rubrics and reflection tools

Musical Theatre

Beginning Musical Theatre

(1 semester) Grade 5

Musical theatre combines the gifts of singing, acting, and dancing into one powerful form of storytelling. At Fort Bend Christian Academy, we believe that God designed us to use our voices, bodies, and creativity to glorify Him and to build community. In this course, students will begin to discover how musical theatre allows them to share stories that connect people, inspire joy, and reflect truth. This introductory course exposes students to the essentials of performing musical theatre, including fundamental training and practice in singing, acting, and dance. Through daily warm-ups and theatre games, students will learn elements of music theory, basic dance styles, and foundational acting techniques, along with the basics of stage performing. Their semester will culminate in a performance that demonstrates growth in skill, confidence, and ensemble collaboration.

Students will be introduced to:

- Singing techniques for musical theater
- Movement and dance for stage performances
- Acting and character creation
- Stage directions and performance space awareness
- Theater vocabulary and terminology
- Working together as an ensemble

- Performance etiquette and stage presence
- Preparing for a live performance

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Following directions and staying focused
- Listening to and supporting classmates
- Memorizing songs, lines, and movements
- Projecting voice clearly when singing and speaking
- Moving safely and purposefully on stage
- Expressing emotions through face and body
- Developing confidence in performance
- Respecting the creative process

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Perform songs with proper breathing and projection
- Execute simple choreography with coordination
- Portray a character through voice and movement
- Respond to stage directions promptly
- Work cooperatively in a group setting
- Remember and perform assigned material
- Demonstrate proper stage etiquette
- Participate successfully in a semester performance

Resources Used:

- Musical theater songs suitable for young voices
- Movement exercises and simple choreography
- Theater games
- Character development activities
- Vocal warm-up routines
- Performance scripts and music selections
- Props and costume elements
- Performance space and stage

Intermediate Musical Theater

(Full Year) Grades 6, 7, 8

Prerequisites: Acceptance by audition only.

Intermediate Musical Theatre is designed for students who have demonstrated skill and passion for the stage and are ready to take the next step in developing their craft. At Fort Bend Christian Academy, we believe that musical theatre is not only an art form but also a powerful means of telling stories that touch hearts and reflect God's creativity. In this course, students refine their abilities in singing, dancing, and acting while learning the discipline, collaboration, and joy that come with being part of a production. Throughout the year, students will engage in challenging rehearsals, structured training, and guided performance opportunities. They will explore the traditions and innovations of musical theatre while growing as artists who use their gifts to inspire and serve others. Two showcase performances provide students with the chance to share their progress and artistry with the community.

Students will be introduced to:

- Structured audition preparation and techniques
- Survey of musical theatre history and influential works
- Character development methods for musical theatre roles
- Music reading skills and theory fundamentals for performers
- Dance techniques for musical theatre (jazz, tap, Broadway style)

- Stage presence development and performance techniques
- Ensemble rehearsal strategies and collaborative processes
- Technical theatre elements (sets, props, costumes) and their purpose

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Vocal techniques including breath support, projection, and diction
- Choreography execution and movement coordination
- Acting techniques specific to musical theatre
- Performance etiquette and backstage protocols
- Memorization strategies for songs, dialogue, and choreography
- Performance confidence development
- Rehearsal discipline and ensemble responsibility
- Creative expression and interpretation of material
- Spiritual reflection on performing arts as a gift from God

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Perform solo and group musical theatre pieces with technical growth
- Apply specific acting techniques to song interpretation
- Execute choreography with increasing precision and stylistic understanding
- Actively contribute to the rehearsal process
- Demonstrate vocal technique development in performance
- Collaborate effectively in ensemble settings
- Prepare and perform a curated audition package (song and monologue)
- Analyze character motivations and storylines in musical theatre works
- Successfully participate in showcase performances

Resources Used:

- Selected musical theatre scenes and songs for intermediate performers
- Showcase performance materials and scripts

Advanced Musical Theatre

(Full Year) Grades 6, 7, 8

Prerequisites: Acceptance by audition only.

Advanced Musical Theatre is designed for students who have already demonstrated significant ability and dedication to the performing arts. This course provides rigorous training across all aspects of musical theater—acting, singing, and dance—while also encouraging students to see their artistic gifts as a calling to glorify God and impact others through excellence in performance.

Students refine their craft through intensive rehearsals, professional-style audition preparation, and advanced coursework in characterization, music literacy, and dance technique. They also gain experience in dramaturgy, technical theatre, and performance production. Participation includes a fall showcase, a spring musical, and the Junior Theater Festival (JTF) West in Sacramento, where students engage with peers from across the nation in a celebration of theatre and artistry.

Students will be introduced to:

- Professional audition processes and techniques
- Historical development of musical theatre as a uniquely American art form

- Contemporary developments in musical theatre as an international art form
- Dramaturgical analysis of musical theatre works
- Technical theatre elements and production design
- Performance careers and avocational opportunities
- Resume building and professional headshots
- Junior Theater Festival competition preparation

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Acting techniques for song, dance, and spoken dialogue
- Dance and movement techniques across various styles (ballet, tap, jazz, ballroom, Broadway)
- Proper vocal production, placement, phrasing, and consistency
- Character development and analysis
- Collaborative ensemble work
- Performance safety measures in voice, dance, and movement
- Constructive critique and peer feedback skills
- Spiritual reflection on creativity as a gift from God

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Perform solo and ensemble musical theatre pieces with technical proficiency
- Interpret lyrics for effective characterization, vocalization, and dance
- Apply appropriate acting, vocal, and dance techniques in performance
- Successfully audition using prepared monologues and songs
- Collaborate effectively in ensemble performances
- Offer and receive constructive criticism of performances
- Compete at the Junior Theater Festival with confidence
- Identify potential career paths in musical theatre

Resources Used:

- Various musical theatre scripts, scores, and monologue collections
- Vocal and physical warm-up routines
- Dance combinations and choreography materials
- Performance recordings for analysis
- JTF preparation materials
- Technical theatre equipment
- Professional headshot and resume examples

Communications

Communications

(1 Semester) Grades 7, 8

This elective course introduces students to the principles and practices of effective communication across a variety of contexts. Students will study and apply skills in public speaking, persuasive writing, marketing, advertising, storytelling, and digital media. Academic objectives include developing clarity and confidence in verbal and written expression, understanding how audience and purpose shape communication choices, and analyzing how messages are constructed and delivered in both Christian and cultural contexts. Students will

complete projects that require them to plan, craft, and present original work, building foundational skills that apply across all areas of academic and professional life.

Students will be introduced to:

- The relationship between speaker, audience, and purpose, and how it shapes every communication choice
- Persuasive appeals and the structure of an evidence-based argument
- Storytelling techniques that engage and hold an audience
- Delivery skills including vocal variety, pacing, eye contact, and posture
- The components of effective marketing and advertising messages, including branding, target audience, and call to action
- Digital media production: scripting, storyboarding, visual design, and basic editing
- How messages are constructed and delivered differently across digital platforms
- Communication as a stewardship of God-given gifts of language and creativity
- A biblical framework for evaluating messages and distinguishing truth from cultural distortion

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Clear organization: claim, supporting evidence, transitions, and conclusion
- Tailoring tone, word choice, and format to a specific audience and purpose
- The writing process of planning, drafting, and refining original work
- Grammar, usage, and mechanics in both written and spoken work
- Truthfulness and integrity in all spoken and written work
- Rehearsal, timing, and preparation before presenting

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Deliver a prepared speech with clarity, confidence, and an appropriate tone, adapting the message to a specific audience and purpose
- Write persuasive content with a clear structure and supporting evidence, tailored to a defined audience
- Analyze how marketing and media messages are constructed and delivered across digital platforms
- Create original marketing or advertising content using digital media tools
- Evaluate messages through a biblical lens and distinguish truth from cultural distortion
- Plan, craft, and present an original culminating project that integrates speaking, writing, and digital media to encourage, inform, or serve a real audience

Resources Used:

- **Digital Tools:** Canva, Flint AI

Yearbook

Yearbook

(Full Year) Grades 7, 8**Prerequisites: Acceptance by application only.**

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of creating a school yearbook from concept to publication. Students will learn photography skills, photo editing techniques, journalistic writing, layout design, and deadline management. Working collaboratively, students will document school events, student life, and create lasting memories through the production of the school's annual yearbook. The course emphasizes both technical skills and creative expression while teaching real-world project management and teamwork.

Students will be introduced to:

- Photography fundamentals including composition, lighting, and subject focus
- Digital layout and design using Yearbook Avenue software from Jostens
- Caption and story writing for journalistic publications
- Project management and deadline coordination
- Interview techniques for gathering information
- Proper documentation of school events and activities
- Editing and proofreading techniques
- Basic principles of page design and layout
- Photo selection and cropping for maximum impact

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Meeting production deadlines for various yearbook sections
- Improving photography skills at school events
- Enhancing digital editing and layout techniques
- Developing clear, concise, and engaging writing
- Collaborating effectively as part of a publication team
- Time management and prioritization of tasks
- Attention to detail in editing and review processes
- Consistent style and quality throughout the publication
- Problem-solving when faced with technical or content challenges
- Ethical considerations in photography and reporting

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Capture high-quality photographs suitable for publication
- Create compelling page layouts using Studioworks
- Write engaging captions and stories that accurately document events
- Meet all production deadlines for their assigned sections
- Manage the workflow from photography to final page submission
- Work collaboratively with peers to produce a cohesive publication
- Apply principles of good design to create visually appealing spreads
- Edit content for accuracy, completeness, and journalistic quality
- Understand the complete yearbook production process

Resources Used:

- 3 Canon cameras
- **Digital Tools:** Yearbook Avenue/Jostens publication software and Adobe Creative Cloud
- Style guides and journalism references
- Previous yearbooks for reference
- Photography and design tutorials

- Journalism and caption-writing guides
- Deadline schedules and production calendars

Athletics and Physical Education

Fort Bend Christian Academy Athletic Mission Statement

The mission of the Fort Bend Christian Academy Athletic Department is to provide a Christ-centered quality athletic program. A successful FBCA Athletic Department will glorify God while developing student-athletes and mentoring them in blending a competitive spirit in the athletic arena while attaining excellence in their spiritual lives, academic endeavors, and social responsibilities.

FBCA Athletics provides students with opportunities to enhance their athletic abilities while fostering essential life skills such as teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, and perseverance. Above all, FBCA utilizes athletics as a platform for nurturing strong Christian principles and character, guiding our student-athletes to excel and compete for the glory of God.

Athletic Philosophy

FBCA Athletics emphasizes the development of the whole student-athlete—spiritually, academically, physically, and socially. Our coaches serve as mentors and role models, demonstrating Christian character and leadership while pursuing competitive excellence as an act of worship. Through practice, competition, and team experiences, student-athletes learn discipline, commitment, resilience, and the importance of honoring God through their efforts both on and off the field.

Middle School Athletic Programs

Our comprehensive athletic program begins in sixth grade and spans three competitive seasons, giving student-athletes opportunities to develop their skills, compete at high levels, and grow in character and faith.

Fall Season:

- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Football
- Volleyball

Winter Season:

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Swim
- Cheerleading

Spring Season:

- Baseball
- Golf
- Softball
- Track and Field
- Tennis

Participation and Eligibility

Middle school students are encouraged to participate in athletics as an extension of their educational experience. The athletic program welcomes students beginning in sixth grade, nurturing a continuum of growth in talent and team culture that carries from middle school into upper school. All student-athletes must maintain academic eligibility standards and demonstrate good citizenship consistent with FBCA's values. Specific eligibility requirements and participation guidelines are outlined in the Student-Parent Athletic Handbook.

Competitive Excellence

FBCA competes in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) at the 5A level, with our teams regularly advancing to district, regional, and state competitions. While we pursue competitive excellence, our primary goal remains the spiritual and personal development of each student-athlete, preparing them to be leaders who glorify God in all aspects of life.

Physical Education Requirement

All fifth-grade students are required to take Physical Education. In sixth grade, students may elect to continue with PE, and in seventh and eighth grade, students may elect Health and Fitness as part of their schedule.

Physical Education Program

The Fort Bend Christian Academy Middle School Physical Education Department is committed to developing the whole student through a comprehensive approach to physical wellness, skill development, and character formation. Our program is grounded in the understanding that our bodies are temples created by God, deserving of proper care and respect, and fosters an environment where students learn fair play, teamwork, encouragement of others, and personal responsibility.

We believe physical education is an essential component of a well-rounded education, providing students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for lifelong physical activity and well-being. Through progressive, age-appropriate instruction in both team sports and individual fitness pursuits, we equip students with the physical competence, health-related knowledge, and positive social skills they need to maintain active, healthy lifestyles—while helping them understand the connection between physical, mental, and spiritual wellness.

5th Grade PE

(Full Year) Grade 5

This course instructs students in individual lifetime activities as well as various team sports. Students participate in daily exercise, volleyball, flag football, basketball, badminton, softball/baseball, soccer, and hockey. Fun day activities include kickball, dodgeball, and ultimate Frisbee.

A one-day hygiene, health, and physiology lesson is presented during the second semester to girls-only. The lesson is presented by the school nurses to the girls and in a gender-separated classroom. All resources for the class curriculum are available in the Nurse's office for parental examination.

Students will be introduced to:

- Various fitness drills focusing on proper form and technique
- Football skills including throwing and catching
- Volleyball skills including bumping, setting, and serving
- Basketball skills including ball handling, shooting, passing, and defense
- Soccer skills and game strategies
- Baseball/softball skills including throwing, catching, fielding, and hitting
- Badminton skills including serving and volleying
- Game rules, scoring, and rotations for all sports
- Lifetime fitness activities and games

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Developing muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility
- Cardiovascular fitness through running activities (mile run, 40-yard dash, 400-meter run)
- Sportsmanship and fair play
- Teamwork and cooperation with others
- Understanding that the body is a temple created by God
- Learning to encourage teammates and opponents
- Application of rules during competitive play
- Skill development across multiple sports

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate improved physical fitness in strength, endurance, and flexibility
- Show proper technique in various sport-specific skills
- Apply rules and strategies during game situations
- Display good sportsmanship and teamwork
- Participate effectively in team and individual activities
- Understand the importance of lifetime physical fitness
- Recognize activities that can help them stay active beyond school
- Apply Christian principles of encouragement and fair play

Resources Used:

- Age-appropriate physical education equipment
- Fitness assessment tools (stopwatches, measuring devices)
- Sport-specific equipment (balls, nets, goals, bats)
- Instructional videos and demonstrations
- Game modification equipment for skill development

6th Grade PE

(Full Year) Grade

This course instructs students in individual lifetime activities as well as various team sports. Students participate in daily exercise, volleyball, flag football, basketball, badminton, softball/baseball, soccer, and hockey. Fun day activities include kickball, dodgeball, and ultimate Frisbee.

A one-day hygiene, health, and physiology lesson is presented during the second semester. The lesson is presented by the P.E teachers to students in gender-separated classes. All resources for the class curriculum are available in the Counselor's office for parental examination.

Students will be introduced to:

- Advanced fitness techniques and proper form for various exercises
- Football skills including route running, defensive strategies, and game situations
- Volleyball skills including proper serving techniques, team rotations, and scoring
- Basketball skills including defensive positioning, team offense, and game strategy
- Soccer skills including dribbling, passing techniques, and field positioning
- Baseball/softball skills including batting stance, fielding techniques, and game situations
- Badminton skills including proper grip, court positioning, and advanced shots
- Sport-specific rules and officiating basics
- Strategic gameplay and team coordination

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Building muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility through regular training
- Cardiovascular fitness through push-up and sit-up tests and various running activities
- Christian principles of sportsmanship and fair play
- Teamwork and positive communication skills
- Understanding the body as a temple created by God
- Developing a personal fitness mindset for lifetime wellness
- Proper technique and form across multiple sports
- Application of rules during competitive situations

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate measurable improvement in physical fitness components
- Apply sport-specific skills in competitive settings
- Understand and implement game strategies for various team sports
- Display leadership and positive team dynamics during activities
- Officiate basic game situations with proper rule knowledge
- Recognize the importance of lifelong physical activity
- Connect spiritual principles to physical wellness and team participation
- Create and follow a basic personal fitness plan

Resources Used:

- Age-appropriate physical education equipment
- Fitness assessment tools and tracking sheets
- Health and wellness educational resources

7th and 8th Grade Health and Fitness

(1 semester in Fall or Spring) Grades 7 & 8

This course instructs students in lifetime fitness skills through lifting weights, developing cardio fitness, learning how to prepare a healthy meal, and planning fitness goals. Instruction will stress becoming fit in all areas, including spiritually, physically, and mentally.

Students will be introduced to:

- Weight room safety protocols and proper lifting techniques
- Upper body strength exercises (chest, triceps, biceps, shoulders, abs, and back)
- Lower body strength exercises (quadriceps, hamstrings, glutes, and calves)
- Calisthenic activities including box jumps, agility ladder, vertimax, jump rope, punching bag, hurdle kicks, kettlebell swings, and rope swings
- Health concepts including physical fitness, nutrition, lifelong health, sports injuries, and first aid
- Proper nutrition and meal planning for athletic performance
- Disease prevention and health maintenance
- Personal fitness goal setting and tracking progress

Continued reinforcement will be placed on:

- Building muscular strength and endurance through progressive weight training
- Developing cardiovascular endurance through varied activities
- Improving flexibility and range of motion
- Understanding the body as a temple created by God that needs proper care
- Learning to encourage others and build each other up
- Developing resilience and the ability to deal with adversity
- Application of health knowledge to daily life choices
- Christian principles of teamwork and support in fitness settings

By year's end, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate proper technique for various weight training exercises
- Create and follow a personalized workout plan
- Show measurable improvement in muscular strength (through 10-rep max tests)
- Demonstrate improved speed and agility through performance tests
- Apply health and nutrition knowledge to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Understand and apply first aid principles for common sports injuries
- Recognize the connection between physical, mental, and spiritual well-being
- Set realistic fitness goals and track progress effectively

Resources Used:

- Weight room equipment (free weights, weight machines)
- Calisthenic equipment (jump ropes, agility ladders, boxes, vertimax)
- **Digital Tools:** Nearpod
- Fitness assessment tools and tracking sheets

- Nutritional planning resources
- First aid instructional materials

Technology at FBCA

1:1 iPad Program

At Fort Bend Christian Academy, every middle school student is issued an iPad, which serves as an integral tool for learning. The 1:1 iPad Program is designed to provide students with the tools necessary for research, collaboration, and creativity while cultivating responsible technology habits. Students are required to bring their iPad to each class and are expected to use it exclusively for educational purposes.

Fifth grade students receive their iPads at the start of the school year but do not take them home until sixth grade. During fifth grade, devices remain on campus as students receive guided instruction in digital citizenship and responsible use, ensuring that they build a strong foundation before managing devices independently outside of school.

Through their school-issued Gmail accounts and the ClassLink platform, students have secure access to a wide range of digital learning resources and online library databases chosen for their developmental age and curricular focus. Teachers use these in the classroom daily.

While technology provides valuable opportunities for engagement and growth, educators always balance it with traditional instructional methods and face-to-face collaboration. Teachers at FBCA are intentional about integrating iPads as one of many tools for learning, ensuring that students develop both digital literacy and interpersonal skills that prepare them well for high school and beyond.

Blackbaud Learning Management System (MYFBCA)

Blackbaud (MYFBCA) is the primary Learning Management System across all divisions at Fort Bend Christian Academy. This encompasses a curation of school-wide resources, classes, rosters, schedules, attendance, bulletin boards, assignments, assessments, discussions, grading, calendar access, groups, and directories. Blackbaud gives teachers the ability to build their digital classroom space, enables students to engage in this virtual extension of their classroom assignments and resources, and provides parents with an integrated view of their students' schedules and performance.

Artificial Intelligence at FBCA

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an increasingly significant part of our world. It is transforming industries, driving innovation, and reshaping the way people work and solve problems. As these tools become more common, it is essential that students learn how to navigate them wisely and responsibly.

At Fort Bend Christian Academy, we want students to understand how AI works, including both its possibilities and its limitations. For example, AI can make mistakes—known as hallucinations—and sometimes produces content that does not align with truth or our Christian mission. We teach students to approach AI critically and thoughtfully, rather than accept its output at face value or allow it to replace their own reasoning.

We also believe that students must first be firmly grounded in the fundamentals of learning. A strong foundation in writing, numeracy, research, and broad background knowledge equips students to think deeply, communicate clearly, and approach complex ideas with confidence. These habits of mind cannot be outsourced to technology. Instead, they are cultivated through practice, perseverance, and meaningful engagement with teachers and peers. Teachers at FBCA are intentional about ensuring that students do not use AI as a shortcut; instead, they structure assignments and learning experiences to promote genuine understanding and skill-building.

To set healthy boundaries, FBCA has established a clear AI Policy. Students may not use AI to complete assignments unless a teacher gives specific permission. When permitted, AI use is carefully guided and purposeful. For example, teachers may allow students to use Flint AI as a digital tutor to check grammar, generate study questions, or give feedback on student created thesis statements. Teachers themselves may also use school-approved, AI-enabled platforms to design lesson plans, quizzes, and study materials that enrich the classroom experience. In each case, AI is treated as a tool to support—not replace—the God-given ability of students to reason, create, and communicate.

Our balanced approach allows students to benefit from emerging technology while continuing to grow in wisdom, creativity, and discernment. By teaching students how to use AI responsibly, while protecting their development of essential academic skills, we prepare them to thrive in a world where technology will always be evolving. More importantly, we prepare them to approach that world with a Biblical worldview, remembering that while tools may change, the foundation of God’s truth remains constant.

FBCA AI Policy

At Fort Bend Christian Academy, students are not permitted to use AI tools to create or write assignments (including but not limited to essays, papers, projects, and presentations) without express permission from the teacher who gives the assignment. Prior to major and minor assignments, the teacher will provide clear parameters on how much, if any, AI collaboration is allowed on said assignments. Additionally, students must do all digital work (composing, editing, revising, etc.) in a single electronic document, from start to finish, so that all writing and edit/version history is saved and visible to the teacher.

If a student is suspected of using unauthorized AI assistance, the teacher, in conjunction with Division Leadership, will use the following checklist to evaluate an assignment for potential AI plagiarism. The teacher should first inquire with the student about any unauthorized use of AI before proceeding with the checklist below. If the student admits to it, the teacher and student should have a conversation about how AI was used, to what extent, etc., and that should be communicated not only to the student's parent(s) but also to the Division Leadership. If the student denies using AI, the teacher should use the checklist below.

If student work exhibits three or more of the following, the student's work can be deemed plagiarized, and the student will face consequences, including not only receiving a zero for the assignment but also potentially other consequences as outlined in the Student and Family Handbook. Consequences will be assigned by Division Leadership, not the teacher.

1. The text in the assignment has no version history and is not typed within Clarity, a web browser in [Turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com).
2. The student cannot defend or argue the topic, main idea, or main argument of the assignment.
3. The student cannot define unusual or obscure vocabulary words used in the text.
4. The text in the assignment contains multiple characteristics of AI-generated text, such as an overly formal tone, repetition and redundancy, overuse of punctuation consistent with AI-generated text, unusual or overly complex sentence construction, overuse of subordinating conjunctions, lack of tone, voice, or style, and more.
5. The text in the assignment does not resemble or compare favorably to the student's previous writing samples and other written work in terms of style, complexity, depth, etc.
6. The text in the assignment is flagged by FBCA's approved AI checker, [TurnItIn.com](https://turnitin.com), with an AI likelihood threshold of 60% or greater.

Library Services

The Middle School Library at Fort Bend Christian Academy is a hub for reading, research, and discovery. Students have multiple opportunities to access resources, including before school (7:50–8:30 a.m.), during lunch, after school, and biweekly during Community Time.

Our librarians provide Reader’s Advisory, helping students find “just right” books that match their reading levels and interests. Books are carefully vetted to ensure age-appropriate content and to reflect values consistent with our Christian mission. Students may choose from a wide variety of titles, including graphic novels, chapter books, and nonfiction, all selected to encourage growth in wisdom and character.

The library also supports Accelerated Reader (AR), encouraging students to set reading goals and celebrate progress. After finishing independent reading novels, students take AR quizzes directly on their iPads, earning points based on book length and quiz accuracy. Points contribute to individual prizes, House points, and special recognitions such as the Millionaire’s Club for students who read one million words or more.

Beyond reading, the library offers:

- **Research Support** – pulling resources for projects, teaching lessons on research skills, and providing access to online databases.
- **Book Fairs** – two Scholastic book fairs each year, along with periodic author visits that connect students to the wider world of literature.
- **Teacher Support** – curated book carts and resources to enhance classroom instruction.

Whether checking out books, preparing for a research project, or participating in reading celebrations, students are encouraged to see the library as both a welcoming space and an essential resource for their academic journey.

Standardized Assessments

At Fort Bend Christian Academy, standardized assessments are used as tools to support learning and growth. In Middle School, we use two assessments from the Educational Records Bureau (ERB), a nationally recognized organization that creates assessments designed specifically for independent schools.

ERB Milestone

Students take the ERB Milestone assessment twice each year, in October and January. The ERB Milestone consists of a one-hour math test and a one-hour reading comprehension test. As a lower-stakes assessment, it allows us to monitor student progress throughout the year and identify opportunities for early intervention or enrichment when needed.

ERB-CTP-5

At Fort Bend Christian Academy, we use standard annual assessments as tools to support learning and growth. One of the key assessments we use in Middle School is the Comprehensive Testing Program (CTP-5) from the Educational Records Bureau (ERB). The ERB is a nationally normed test created for independent schools that provides useful information about student strengths and areas for growth in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Our faculty and administrators use ERB data to:

- Monitor individual and class growth over time

- Compare performance with other independent schools nationwide
- Identify areas where students may benefit from targeted support or enrichment
- Adapt curriculum and teaching strategies to meet the needs of all learners

By thoughtfully integrating ERB results into the learning process, FBCA ensures that students are challenged and supported in ways that glorify God through excellence in college preparatory Christian education and equip them to thrive academically.

Student Services

Counseling Services

Fort Bend Christian Academy has two dedicated counselors who serve our middle school students. Recognizing that these years are marked by significant growth, change, and emotions, our counseling program is designed to provide a safe, loving, and Christ-centered environment where students can thrive.

Counselors conduct advisory lessons throughout the year where they lead small-group sessions on social-emotional learning (SEL) topics such as friendship, organization, conflict resolution, digital citizenship, and managing stress. These lessons are taught through a Biblical worldview, equipping students with practical tools for life while grounding them in God's truth.

Beyond advisory lessons, our counselors are available to meet individually with students who may need encouragement, support, or guidance. They also partner closely with families, providing resources and collaboration to help students navigate the middle school years with confidence and resilience.

Through this ministry of care, FBCA's counseling program nurtures both the hearts and minds of students, supporting their spiritual, social, and emotional growth in alignment with our mission to glorify God through excellence in Christian education.

Academic Support

Middle school students with documented learning differences may receive accommodations. Parents must provide professional testing documentation from a qualified diagnostician (e.g., educational psychologist or psychiatrist) that is current

(within the past three years) and includes a comprehensive evaluation with presenting concerns, tests administered, results, DSM-based diagnosis, and educational recommendations. Teachers collaborate with the Middle School Counselor and parents to ensure student success.