MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

Crossroads Christian School

CCS Instructional Philosophy Statements

Language Arts Philosophy Statement
As an image-bearer of God, mankind is also a communicative being and is therefore responsible for communicating with God and fellow humans. In His goodness, He presented us with the wonderful gift of communication and so allows us to hear, listen, speak, write and read. Isaiah 50:4 states, "The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens me morning by morning; He awakens my ear to hear as the learned." Therefore, the equipped student needs to master language to effectively fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Math Philosophy Statement
Mathematics instruction points to God's nature as revealed in creation in that it has logical order, patterns, measurement, and absolute standards. Understanding these laws of mathematics will lead students to develop a mastery of math concepts. (Romans 1:19-20; Jeremiah 33:25; Psalm 33:6-11; Psalm 104:24)

Science Philosophy Statement
"In the beginning God..." (Genesis 1:1) Science is the observation of creation and how it aligns with the truth of Scripture. The study of science will expose students to the order of the universe using instruction, inquiry-based experiments, demonstrations, and technology that show Science to be observable, repeatable, and measurable through a biblical framework. The ultimate goal will be for the development of a worldview incorporating a biblically consistent view of Science, which reflects knowledge of the character of God as the omnipotent Creator and sustainer of all things, both visible and invisible. (Col. 1:16-17)

History Philosophy Statement
God created mankind to reflect His character and to be instruments of His redemptive plan (Eph. 1:3-14). Through the studies of history, government, culture, and geography, students will see that God is the sovereign orchestrator of human events and sustainer of the world and everything in it (Acts 17:26-28). He governs the rise and fall of governments and societies, and their response to God's law determines whether a people is blessed or cursed (Deut. 28). As image-bearers of God, mankind is capable of engaging in the First Commission, to rule over all the earth (Gen. 1:26-28), and to do so in harmony with God and mankind. It is up to the people of God to learn from the testimonies of those who came before us (Ps. 78:1-7) and to become virtuous citizens, responsible shapers of culture, and active participants in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

Bible Philosophy Statement
As the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God, the Bible alone is the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct. As it is the written revelation of God, its study is to be at the center of any comprehensive worldview. Personal knowledge of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, His Son, brings transformation of one's inner character so that God's glory is progressively displayed in the surrounding community and culture. A true understanding of Biblical theology provides confidence in the proclamation of the Gospel, meaningful service in the local community, and Spirit-filled worship. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:2-4; 2 Peter 1:21-22; Hebrews 11:3; John 17:17-23; Psalm 19:7-11; Romans 12:1-2)

Fine Arts Philosophy Statement
God is our Creator. He uses his creativity to visually express himself and aspects of his character to man. There is beauty, purpose, order, and intent throughout all of God's creation. The Fine Arts are ways in which man, who is made in the image of God, can creatively communicate thoughts and ideals using visual and auditory language. (Genesis 1:1-1-2:3)

Physical Education Philosophy Statement
Physical Education teaches that the body, the temple of the Holy Spirit, is the tool through which we serve God. Employing healthy habits helps us develop and care for the unique temple that God created each of us to be. Instruction in sportsmanship teaches that whether we win or lose, our testimony provides opportunities to serve God effectively and share His love with others. (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

Library, Media, and Technology Philosophy Statement
All knowledge begins with God, so His Word will always be given preeminence. Based on this principle, our library, media, and technology sources will endeavor to provide an array of literature, educational materials, information, and technology experiences to allow students opportunities to expand their knowledge base, obtain skills to minister effectively in the modern world, and fulfill classroom assignments for God's glory. (Proverbs 13:3)

CCS Philosophy Statement for Study Skills and High School Prep
The middle school years are a time of physical, spiritual, and emotional change. Study skills is designed to assist students in becoming more mature and responsible. Providing tasks and techniques that call for greater organization and study skills give the student the building blocks necessary for a successful academic experience, as well as helping them to become independent learners. God has equipped each student with the ability to work with order and perform to the best of their abilities as image bearers of Christ. (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Corinthians 14:40; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Titus 2:7)

Introduction to Middle School

Middle School is a time of constant change for students. The curriculum at CCS recognizes the challenges at this stage of development for young teens. The main focus of the academic program at this level is to prepare students to be successful in high school. As a result, CCS offers an academically challenging middle school curriculum. In addition, organization, study skills, time management, and critical thinking are distinctive of every class and subject.

All middle school students at CCS take the daily core subjects of Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Bible. The Language Arts curriculum receives special attention at the middle school level because of the vital importance of writing and reading comprehension to all subjects, and especially to a student's ability to succeed in high school. As a result, extra time is allotted in the middle school schedule for Language Arts. All middle school students will receive at least seven periods of teaching in the Language Arts classroom per week. In addition to the core subjects, students will take two to three hours per week of computer classes.

Middle school students will also take a different enrichment class each quarter. Students at this level do not get to choose which enrichment courses they wish to take. The goal with these classes is to expose middle school students to a variety of classes so they are better equipped to narrow their interest areas in high school. Please see the enrichment course descriptions for more detail.

Students are encouraged to get involved with the various ACSI competitions, like Math Olympics and the Art Festival. From Beta Club to athletics, middle school students at CCS are given a variety of ways to express themselves beyond the classroom.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Junior Beta Club
Open to 6th-9th students who maintain A/B honor roll each quarter. Beta Club members will be involved in numerous leadership and community service activities throughout the school year.

Student Council
Students are elected by their classes to serve for the entire year. Students must meet minimum grade requirements. Conduct and character will also be considered when nominated. Students will be expected to help organize and lead numerous activities, both at school and in the community, throughout the school year.

Middle School/JV Athletics
Girls Volleyball
Girls and Boys Soccer
Girls and Boys Basketball
Girls and Boys Golf
Tennis
Softball
Baseball
Girls Cheerleading
Cross Country

Middle School Enrichment Classes

ART

Students will gain a basic knowledge of art and art history as they relate to personal, historical, cultural and social contexts of different works. They will gain applicable knowledge and understanding of the basic principles and elements of art in a variety of mediums. Students will learn and develop basic techniques and skills while expressing their own unique and personal ideas, feelings and responses in the creation of original compositions. Students will practice techniques learned in Master Studies. Students will also keep a sketchbook/ journal throughout the quarter.

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week (1 Quarter – 9 weeks)

Instructional Goals:

- Introduce & test on vocabulary for mediums, techniques, elements and principles.
- Introduce 2D as well as 3D forms of art.
- Instruct proper techniques for all mediums.
- Introduce and test students on intermediate color theory (primary, secondary, analogous).
- Students will mix and use colors according to instruction.
- Introduce intermediate drawing techniques (Perspective Drawing, Adding form).
- Assess acceptable craftsmanship and interesting composition.
- Involve each student in collaborative projects to encourage group brain-storming, accepting the ideas and opinions of others.
- Review following rules and expectations in a creative space.
- Assign students to art room cleanup and care duties.
- Introduce Art History and Master study.

STUDY SKILLS

The study skills/high school prep class provides students with the necessary study skills and academic guidance in order to have a successful scholastic experience. Each student will explore his/her unique learning styles and will be introduced to strategies for using his/her academic strengths. Students are able to apply strategies to other courses and receive assistance with homework assignments and test preparation by utilizing techniques they learn in this course. Emphasis is placed on organizational skills, time management, reading strategies, memorization strategies, interpretation of independent learning styles, and test-taking strategies. Students will gain a deeper understanding of topics through reading, writing, discussion, and guided practice.

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week (1 Quarter – 9 weeks)

Instructional Goals:

- Establish a systematic approach to using individual student planners.
- Organize and maintain organization of student lockers and classroom supplies.
- Investigate test-taking techniques and strategies for students to utilize on a variety types of tests.
- Practice techniques and apply them to real-time assessments and Bible verse memorization.
- Examine various types of text to determine strategies for learning the material (i.e. leisure or textbook reading).
- Give examples of various note-taking strategies.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education classes provide diverse forms of fitness and exercise. Special emphasis is placed on developing good sportsmanship, athletic skills, and team-building. Students are encouraged to develop lifelong physical fitness habits that will enable them to stay healthy and to better serve God.

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week (1 Quarter – 9 Weeks)

Instructional Goals:

- Develop skills for individual and team sports.
- Engage in cooperative group play.
- Enhance the knowledge of being physically fit.
- Enhance the knowledge of sports and activities.
- Participate in a variety of games and activities.

MUSIC

Students will gain confidence in singing alone and with others. Students will be given the opportunity to experience different genres of choral music, while honoring God with their talents and abilities. Students will learn techniques of vocalizing using warm-ups and sectional singing. Students will learn to identify basic parts of written music, as well as musical symbols and terms. Students will gain knowledge and demonstrate proper rehearsal techniques. Students will participate in a worship experience during chapel.

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week (1 Quarter – 9 Weeks)

Instructional Goals:

- To sing varied repertoire
- To learn techniques of vocalizing, using warm-up exercises and sectional singing
- To identify the basic parts of written music, such as musical symbols, terms and notes on the staff for the treble and bass clef
- To gain knowledge of and demonstrate proper rehearsal techniques
- To participate in a worship service as the worship leaders in song
- To sing their hearts out to God

6th Grade

BIBLE

Students will survey the history and theology of the Old and New Testaments through reading, personal reflection, group collaboration, class discussion, and verse memorization. Emphasis is placed on the grand narrative of Scripture - Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration. In each section of the Bible, students will learn the major people, places, and events and discover how the individual stories and teachings fit into the overall story of God's kingdom. Attention will be drawn to the variety of ways that the Old Testament testifies of Christ in order be able to better appreciate the New Testament's witness of Jesus Christ. Students will be challenged to apply the truths learned in order to grow in faith and obedience to Jesus Christ.

Textbook(s): *Route 66: Travel Through the Bible* (Positive Action)

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week

Instructional Goals:

- Learn the major events of Old Testament history and how these reveal the character of God and His plans for His people.
- Analyze the main theological themes of each book of the Bible.
- Gain a broader understanding of Biblical theology and how Jesus Christ fulfills the prophecies and types of the Old Testament.
- Learn the meanings of key theological terms found throughout the Bible.
- Be able to list each book of the Bible in order in their respective divisions.
- Build a memory of key Bible verses that help outline the story of the Bible.
- Understand the devastating effects of sin and the power of God's Spirit to give life.
- Develop a confidence in telling others about the great salvation God has provided in Christ.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Students will examine vocabulary, grammar, writing, and literature through the use of reading, writing, discussion, and research. Emphasis will be placed on grade appropriate vocabulary words, capitalization, punctuation, parts of speech, sentences, paragraphs, summaries, essays, and literature. Furthermore, students will utilize a Biblical perspective to investigate a variety of literature selections.

Textbook(s): Vocabu-Lit (Perfection Learning); *Units for Writing* (Heinemann); *Easy Grammar*; miscellaneous literary works and other teacher resources

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per class, 8 times per week (meets twice three days per week)

Instructional Goals:

- Master pronunciation, spelling, definitions, synonyms, and antonyms of grade level vocabulary words.
- Utilize correct capitalization.
- Utilize correct punctuation.
- Identify parts of speech as used in sentences, starting with the identification of prepositional phrases.
- Write sentences correctly.
- Produce summaries.
- Write a thesis statement and incorporate it into a five paragraph essay.
- Examine plot, character, and setting in various literature selections.

MATH

Students will use the Common Core State Standards for Mathematical Practice and Content as the foundation of this course. Students will gain a deeper understanding of topics through inductive reasoning and exploration while developing communication and problem-solving skills through guided and written practice, manipulatives, and discussion. Emphasis is placed on mastering fewer and more focused standards, conceptual understanding of key ideas, and a continual building on what has been previously taught. Key ideas include: expressions and number properties; multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals; percent; ratios, rates, and data analysis; circles and area; equations; inequalities; and tables, graphs, and functions.

Textbook(s): *Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life* (Cengage/National Geographic)

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week

Instructional Goals:

- Apply and extend previous understanding of arithmetic to algebraic expressions; multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions; numbers to the system or rational numbers.
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- Develop understanding of statistical variability.
- Summarize and describe distributions.
- Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.

SCIENCE

Students will study various concepts about earth science, life science, physical science, and the human body. They will learn about new and current technology being developed that utilizes and benefits from science. They will explore earthquakes and volcanoes, weathering and erosion, natural resources, and astronomy. Life science topics include cells and classification systems as well as reproduction and genetics. While studying physical science, students will investigate atoms and molecules, electricity and magnetism, and motion and machines. They will discover the wonders of the human body as they study the nervous and immune systems.

Textbook(s): *Science 6* (Bob Jones Press)

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week

Instructional Goals:

- Learn about new and current technology being developed that utilizes and benefits from science.
- Explore earthquakes and volcanoes, weathering and erosion, natural resources, and astronomy while learning about the earth and space.
- Understand cells and classification systems.
- Learn about reproduction and genetics.
- Investigate atoms and molecules, electricity and magnetism, and motion and machines.
- Understand the human nervous and immune systems.
- Apply critical thinking skills through the hands-on activities and the use of diagrams, charts, and visuals.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students will survey world history from creation until the Middle Ages using reading, writing, discussion, and research. History is the record of the past acts of God and humans on earth from Creation to the present. It records mankind's attempts to live to the Creation Mandate in a fallen world. Students will focus on a small but important part of this study – the beginning of civilizations and their relation to God and His truth. History is an account of good and evil, of great advances for God's work of redemption, and of human sin and suffering.

Textbook(s): *Heritage Studies 6* (Bob Jones Press)

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week

Instructional Goals:

- Appreciate and comprehend the past as it relates to the present.
- Distinguish God's leading in historical events.
- Examine the record of God's dealing with man.
- Relate how obedience to or rebellion against God has affected different nations.
- Interpret maps and other geographic representations and tools to acquire and report information.
- Identify the basic differences between the major forms of government.
- Examine the Christian's responsibility in government.
- Examine ways a nation's economy can influence its moral and political character.
- Acknowledge that the physical environment affects the way people live and work.
- Demonstrate how historians rely on primary and secondary sources to learn about the past.
- See how all people reflect God's image.

COMPUTER

Students will demonstrate proper use of keyboard for correct finger positioning, speed, and accuracy as well as basic computer skills such as file management, Internet research, word processing, and desktop publishing. They will use the latest version of Microsoft Office for most of these tasks.

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 2 days a week

Instructional Goals:

- Review the basics of PC hardware/software and the Microsoft Windows operating system as it relates to file management and basic computer usage.
- Introduce students to keyboard history and how it pertains to correct finger positioning for speed and accuracy.
- Introduce applications in the Microsoft Office suite.
- Use Mavis Beacon software to introduce basics of keyboarding and maintain status of progress.
- Acquaint students with the effective ways to create documents suitable for coursework, professional purposes, and personal use.
- Expose students to practical examples of desktop publishing.
- Prepare students for future computer usage by teaching fundamentals of keyboarding.

7th Grade

BIBLE

Students will survey the life of Christ, giving special attention to the study of John's Gospel. Learning will be obtained through reading, researching, personal reflection, group collaboration, class discussion, and verse memorization. Emphasis is placed on the theological meaning of the events in Christ's life, death, and resurrection. History, geography, and politics affecting the events of Christ's ministry will be studied in order to better understand the theology of John's Gospel. Students will learn how John has crafted a persuasive witness to Jesus Christ, with hopes that students will come to know and share the eternal life that Jesus came to give.

Textbook(s): *The Life of Christ: From the Gospel of John* (Positive Action)

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week

Instructional Goals:

- Be able to compare/contrast features of the Gospel of John with the Synoptic Gospels.
- Learn the major geographical features and political divisions of ancient Palestine.
- Understand the main theological purposes for John's Gospel.
- Analyze the literary arrangement of the events in John's gospel, and discern how this guides readers into a more precise interpretation of the book.
- Develop a strong trust in Jesus as the Son of God and learn to live in reliance on His Spirit.
- Appreciate the role of miracles in revealing the identity and authority of Jesus Christ as God's only begotten Son.
- Identify points of contrast between John's worldview and a variety of modern worldviews.
- Observe the variety of responses that people had toward Jesus Christ during his ministry.
- Learn the historical background of the major feasts of Judaism and their significance in teaching us truths about Christ.
- Gain a broader understanding of Biblical theology and how Jesus Christ fulfills the prophecies and types of the Old Testament.
- Identify the various implications of Christ's substitutionary atonement.
- Identify the importance of Christian witness to who Jesus is, what He has done, and what He has said concerning the future.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Students will examine vocabulary, grammar, writing, and literature through the use of reading, writing, discussion, and research. Emphasis will be placed on grade appropriate vocabulary words, capitalization, punctuation, parts of speech, sentences, paragraphs, summaries, outlines, essays, and literature. Students will participate in a wax museum project in which they will present depictions of historical figures. Furthermore, students will utilize a Biblical perspective to investigate a variety of literature selections.

Textbook(s): *Vocabu-Lit* (Perfection Learning); *Units for Writing* (Heinemann); *Easy Grammar*; miscellaneous literary works and other teacher resources

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per class, 7 times per week (meets twice two days per week)

Instructional Goals:

- Master pronunciation, spelling, definitions, synonyms, and antonyms of grade level vocabulary words.
- Utilize correct capitalization.
- Utilize correct punctuation.
- Identify the eight parts of speech.
- Write sentences correctly.
- Explore outline form and create outlines.
- Produce summaries.
- Research a historical figure and compose an essay; produce a speech from the essay about the historical figure.
- Examine plot, character, and setting in various literature selections.

7th MATH

Students will gain a deeper understanding of topics through inductive reasoning and exploration while developing communication and problem-solving skills through guided and written practice, manipulatives, and discussion. Emphasis is placed on mastering fewer and more focused standards, conceptual understanding of key ideas, and a continual building on what has been previously taught. Key ideas include: operations with integers; rational numbers and equations; proportions and variation; percent; similarity and transformations; surface areas of solids; volumes of solids; data analysis and samples; and probability.

Textbook(s): *Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life* (Cengage/National Geographic)

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week

Instructional Goals:

- Determine how changes in dimensions affect the perimeter, area, and volume.
- Draw and predict the results of transformations with and without the coordinate plane.
- Identify and plot ordered pairs in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane.
- Compare, contrast, and convert units of measure between different systems.
- Express rational numbers as terminating or repeating decimals.
- Solve non-routine problems by working backwards.
- Evaluate the reasonableness of a sample and make generalizations about the population.
- Construct and analyze histograms, stem-and-leaf plots, and circle graphs.
- Determine the outcome of an experiment and predict its likeliness and fairness.
- Determine, compare, and make predictions based on experimental or theoretical probability of independent or dependent events.

7th PRE-ALGEBRA

Students will gain a deeper understanding of topics through inductive reasoning and exploration while developing communication and problem-solving skills through guided and written practice, manipulatives, and discussion. Emphasis is placed on mastering fewer and more focused standards, conceptual understanding of key ideas, and a continual building on what has been previously taught. Key ideas include: operations in integers; rational numbers and equations; proportions and variation; percent; similarity and transformations; linear equations and functions; angles and similarity; radical and the Pythagorean theorem; and exponents and scientific notation.

Textbook(s): *Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life* (Cengage/National Geographic)

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week

Instructional Goals:

- Introduce the Real Number System.
- Understand quantities.
- Observe structure in expressions.
- Create equations.
- Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- Classify Angles.
- Find and simplify square roots.
- Learn the properties of exponents and how to read and write in scientific notation.

LIFE SCIENCE

Life Science is the study of cells, heredity, biological populations and their changes over time. In life science, students will learn about the observations people have made about living things, and what can be inferred from those observations. Students will also develop the skills necessary to make sound observations on their own. The major topics that are covered throughout the year are: classifying living things, life and cells, cell structure, activities of cells, cell division, genetics of organisms, genetic changes, biblical creationism, biological evolution, invertebrates (sponges, jellyfish, worms, mollusks, arthropods, and echinoderms), vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals), and animal behavior. Finally, students will learn what God says about life and living things and about the principles He has given to direct our decision making. Students will study scientific concepts through reading, recording, classifying, measuring, observing, hypothesizing, analyzing, evaluation, inferring, teaching groups, technology, and hands-on experiments.

Textbook(s): *Life Science* (Bob Jones Press)
Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week
Instructional Goals:

- Increase knowledge of God through the study of Life Science.
- Recognize the parallels between scripture passages and life science.
- Classify living things.
- Analyze life and cells.
- Discuss cell structure, activities of cells, and cell division.
- Investigate genetics of organisms, genetic changes.
- Expose and promote biblical creationism.
- Examine biological evolution and inheritance patterns.
- Study invertebrates: sponges, jellyfish, worms, mollusks, arthropods, and echinoderms.
- Study vertebrates: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.
- Understand animal behavior.

WORLD STUDIES

World Studies is the story of people and their relationship to God. This story includes people and cultures from the Dark Ages to the present in all parts of the world. The students will survey this history through the use of reading, writing, discussion, and research. In World Studies the emphasis is on three major components: history, geography, and culture. This introduction to world history is built around geographic areas but still focuses on culture.

Textbook(s): *World Studies* (Bob Jones Press)
Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week
Instructional Goals:

- Appreciate and comprehend the past as it relates to the present.
- Distinguish God's leading in historical events.
- Examine the record of God's dealing with man.
- Relate how obedience to or rebellion against God has affected different nations.
- Interpret maps and other geographic representations and tools to acquire and report information.
- Identify the basic differences between the major forms of government.
- Examine ways a nation's economy can influence its moral and political character.
- See how all people reflect God's image.

COMPUTER

Students will continue to build basic computer knowledge and keyboarding skills. Students will enhance and improve computer skills including word processing, spreadsheets, presentation and multimedia, database, and the Internet. Emphasis will be placed on Internet safety and protecting themselves when utilizing social media. Students will also learn to use proper etiquette when communicating through e-mail. Upon completion, students should be comfortable with computer programs often used to enhance classroom research and presentations for current and future classes. Products of this class include, but are not limited to, establishment of a network email account; proper formatting for outlines; business letters, reports, flyers, magazine, newsletters, and videos.

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 3 days a week
Instructional Goals:

- Introduce the basics of PC hardware/software and the Microsoft Windows operating system.
- Introduce students to professional email communication standards and use email as a tool in communication and file transfers.
- Utilize several mediums for saving files and individual assignments.
- Expose students to practical examples of the computer as a useful research tool.
- Introduce products in the latest Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint, and Access).
- Create a video utilizing Windows MovieMaker software.
- Discuss Internet safety rules and put those rules into practice.

8th Grade

BIBLE

Students will survey the Biblical meaning of wisdom and a variety of examples of wisdom displayed in the lives of men and women in the Bible. An in-depth study of the book of Proverbs will provide the basis for further reflection on the various aspects of wisdom. Learning will be obtained through reading, researching, personal reflection, group collaboration, class discussion, and verse memorization. Emphasis will be placed on the purpose of wisdom within the overall framework of God's kingdom as revealed in Scripture. Students will be challenged to trust in Jesus Christ as both the model and means of true wisdom, so that their lives may successfully reflect Him and bring glory to God.

Textbook(s): *Wise Up: Wisdom In Proverbs* (Positive Action)

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week

Instructional Goals:

- Understand what humanistic philosophy is and be able to identify its various forms.
- Learn the meaning of the wisdom in the Bible and how it is obtained.
- Trust in Christ as the revelation of the wisdom of God.
- Discern how sin affects human perception and practice of truth.
- Discover how the Holy Spirit desires to produce the character of Christ in us.
- Analyze the literary features and theological themes of the book of Proverbs.
- Be able to identify a variety of the types of parallelism found in Hebrew poetry.
- Make personal applications for the use of wisdom in daily life.
- Understand how to live a successful and meaningful life that brings good to the world and glory to God.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Students will examine vocabulary, grammar, writing, and literature through the use of reading, writing, discussion, and research. Emphasis will be placed on grade appropriate vocabulary words, capitalization, punctuation, parts of speech, sentences, paragraphs, summaries, outlines, essays, and literature. Furthermore, students will utilize a Biblical perspective to investigate a variety of literature selections including historical fiction and science fiction.

Textbook(s): *Excursions in Literature* (Bob Jones Press); *Vocabu-Lit* (Perfection Learning); *Units for Writing* (Heinemann); *Easy Grammar*; miscellaneous literary works and other teacher resources

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per class, 8 times per week (meets twice three days per week)

Instructional Goals:

- Master pronunciation, spelling, definitions, synonyms, and antonyms of grade appropriate vocabulary words.
- Utilize correct capitalization.
- Utilize correct punctuation.
- Identify the eight parts of speech.
- Write sentences, paragraphs, and essays correctly.
- Explore outline form and create outlines.
- Produce summaries.
- Examine and explain the importance of plot, character, and setting in various literature selections.
- Define and identify various literary terms.

8th MATH

Students will gain a deeper understanding of topics through inductive reasoning and exploration while developing communication and problem-solving skills through guided and written practice, manipulatives, and discussion. Emphasis is placed on mastering fewer and more focused standards, conceptual understanding of key ideas, and a continual building on what has been previously taught. Key ideas include: solving equations; graphing and writing both linear equations and systems; functions; angles and similarity; square roots and the Pythagorean Theorem; data analysis and displays; linear inequalities; and exponents and scientific notation.

Textbook(s): *Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life* (Cengage/National Geographic)
Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week
Instructional Goals:

- Work with radicals and integer exponents.
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous equations.
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions.
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities.
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres.
- Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers.
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

ALGEBRA I

Students will study foundational algebraic concepts and processes through demonstration, discussion, independent practice, teaching groups and hands on exercises. Emphasis is placed on mastering the use of inverse operations to solve equations and inequalities, graphing and interpreting linear and quadratic functions, and introducing students to polynomials and factoring.

Textbook(s): *Big Ideas Math: Algebra I* (Cengage/National Geographic)
Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week
Instructional Goals:

- Master the use of inverse operations to solve equations for a defined variable.
- Master the use of inverse operations to solve inequalities for a defined variable.
- Investigate functions and understand how to use them to solve real-world problems.
- Recognize and graph linear and quadratic functions.
- Explore transformations in linear and quadratic functions.
- Simplify expressions involving integer and rational exponents.
- Model and practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of polynomials.
- Learn and recognize factoring methods for polynomials.

AMERICAN HISTORY

This course is a survey of United States history with the goal of giving a solid foundation of knowledge about this country. This survey of American history will be done through the use of reading, writing, discussion, and research. Students will begin with understanding why we study American history and what it means to be an American. They will examine events, people, governments, maps, and concepts in American history beginning with the first American civilization through the 21st century.

Textbook(s): *The American Republic* (Bob Jones Press)
Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week
Instructional Goals:

- Recognize God's providence in U.S. history.
- Identify the change in foreign relations from past wars to our present foreign policy.
- Identify the consequences of past decisions, good and bad, that testify that the Bible's principles are true, and that God oversees the course of U.S. history.
- Interpret maps and other geographic representations and tools to acquire and report information.
- List major individuals of U.S. history, including their roles in the past and lessons for today.
- Define and use basic terms from U.S. history that are essential in understanding God's providence.
- Evaluate historical narratives and documents for accuracy.
- Explain the causes of historic crises and give the Bible's solution.

SCIENCE

Physical Science provides a foundation in physics and chemistry in preparation for more advanced high-school science courses. This class gives both a historical and social perspective for scientific knowledge as supported by the National Science Educational Content Standards (NSECS). There are six major themes presented in this course: foundations, mechanics, electromagnetism, periodic phenomena, the structure of matter, and an introduction to chemistry. Content areas of focus are matter, measurements, mechanics/kinematics, mechanics/dynamics, energy, work and simple machines, fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, electricity, the atomic model, atoms, elements, and the periodic table. Students will study scientific concepts through reading, writing, demonstration, discussion, independent practice, teaching groups, research, observations, technology, and hands-on experiments and labs.

Textbook(s): *Physical Science* (Bob Jones Press)

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 5 days a week

Instructional Goals:

- Understand that science is observable, measurable, and repeatable.
- Identify ways that physical science can be used to save and improve human lives.
- Construct and test workable models, explain what we observe, and make useful predictions.
- Understand the correct meaning of key vocabulary such as science, theory, and law.
- Recognize the parallels between Scripture passages and certain aspects of physical science.
- Introduce how paradigms and presuppositions influence the study of science.
- Describe matter and address changes in matter, both physical and chemical.
- Understand the significance of measurement and its importance to the accuracy of scientific evidence specifically utilizing significant digits.
- Apply mathematical formulas to solve various scientific problems.
- Discuss the classifications of energy.
- Examine mechanical work and the simple machines that make work more efficient.
- Discuss the various properties of fluids, which include liquids and gases.
- Understand the concept of temperature and the effects it has on matter.
- Describe electricity and electric fields.
- Understand the nuclear properties of the atom as well as the particles that make up an atom.
- Explore nuclear decay: including gamma decay, alpha decay, and beta decay.
- Be able to identify key information about elements from looking at the periodic table.

COMPUTER

Students will continue to build basic computer knowledge and keyboarding skills introduced in previous year. Students will enhance and improve computer skills including word processing, spreadsheets, presentation and multimedia, database, and Internet research. Emphasis will be placed on Internet safety and protecting themselves when utilizing social media. Students will also learn to use proper etiquette when communicating through e-mail. Upon completion, students should be comfortable with the computer programs often used for higher level school assignments. Products of this class include, but are not limited to, data research, multimedia presentations, video, posters, postcards, etc. The latest Microsoft Office is utilized for the majority of the work in this class as well as a web-based e-mail program.

Time Allotment: 50 minutes per day, 2 days a week

Instructional Goals:

- Review the basics of PC hardware/software and the Microsoft Windows operating system.
- Examine customization features of the operating system.
- Reinforce professional email communication standards and use email as a tool in communication and file transfers.
- Discuss Internet safety rules and put those rules into practice.
- Expose students to practical examples of the computer as a useful research tool.
- Continue learning more of the products in the latest Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, and Publisher), with emphasis on the following:
- Increase skills using many of the basic formatting features of Microsoft Word, including Format Painter, AutoFormats, Illustrations, SmartArt, and more.
- Improve basic skills using many of the calculation, charting, and table features of Microsoft Excel, including Quick Styles, AutoFormats, Charts, and more.