

Eighth Grade Curriculum

Textbooks & Materials

Bible (ACSI *Purposeful Design Connecting with God – New Testament Survey*)

Algebra (Holt McDougal)

English

Writing (*IEW*)

Grammar (Shurley Grammar)

Reading (Mosdos Press Literature)

American Literature (*Words Aptly Spoken: Short Stories*)

Novels:

- *Travels with Charley*
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
- *A Wrinkle in Time*
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- *Hobbit*
- *Sugar*
- *The Bronze Bow*
- *Bruchko*

Science (BJU Press *Earth Science*)

Social Studies (Pearson *America- History of Our Nation*)

- Civil War
- Reconstruction
- Westward Expansion
- Urbanization
- Reform
- Immigration
- World War I

Other subjects taught weekly in Eighth Grade

Technology

The technology elective is designed to enrich student's classroom instructional experience. Through the studentled model, students work with website resources, online applications, Google Drive, and Microsoft Office. Students also create our annual yearbook, which is produced in an online format.

Music

- Orchestra/Band
- Participation in worship time

Foreign Language

Pearson Prentice Hall Realidades (Spanish)

Spanish is the second most common language in the United States and the third most commonly spoken language in the world. Seventh grade has two periods of study per week.

Topics include understanding Spanish-speaking culture through music, food, art, literature, history, and everyday traditions. The study of Spanish may expand career opportunities for students. Studying Spanish improves firstlanguage skills.

Units of study are:

- Mis amigos y yo
- La escuela
- La comida
- Los pasatiempos

Physical Education

Middle School students participate in coed classes and gender specific classes.

Traditional sports skills are taught as well as the President's Physical Fitness Challenge.

Middle School Electives

ART

The VCS art program focuses on understanding that God formed us in his image as creative beings. As a result, each student is gifted with the ability to create, design, and discover in unique ways. The Elements of Art are introduced and built upon each year through exposure to both traditional and non-traditional art forms, interdisciplinary study, and self-evaluation that focuses more on the learning process than the end product. At VCS we strive to encourage and equip students with creative thinking and reasoning skills that go beyond the art classroom and into all areas of the student's life. At the end of the year, students work is displayed at an art show the chronicles student projects and growth over the year.

Eighth grade applies prior learned skills to make their own designs. The elementary level is based on copying but the middle school level is design-based. That is, taking the prior learned skills and making their own designs. 3-D forms, drawing, and learning the vocabulary of the elements of art are taught.

Drama Club

Techniques and skills of drama are taught. Past performances include C. S. Lewis' *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, *A Hundred Dresses* and *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.

Sports

- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Track and Field

Community Service Projects

Jesus Focus

Phil Abundance

Yearbook

Students work with staff to produce our annual yearbook in an online format. This elective provides real-life practice of skills learned in technology class.

Town Hall Meetings

These meetings are designed to allow middle schoolers to voice their thoughts, concerns, and opinions in a group setting. They often have insight into problems and conflict resolution and employ critical thinking to solve issues. They are assured by the middle school staff that they are loved and their voice matters.

Please note that classes may be added or deleted in the middle school program. We are building a program that meets the needs of our students. The core requirements mandated by PA State will remain constant. We want to be flexible in meeting the ever-changing needs of students at this age as well as the changes made necessary for a 21st Century education.

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