

Seventh Grade Curriculum

Textbooks & Materials

Bible (BJU Press Bible *Truths: The Story of the Old Testament*)

Pre-Algebra (MacMillan-McGraw Hill *Transition Mathematics*)

Grammar (Shurley Grammar)

Reading (Mosdos Press Literature)

Vocabulary (Creative Teaching Press *Greek and Latin Roots Words*)

Novels:

- *Island of the Blue Dolphins*
- *The Giver*
- *The City of Ember*
- *Journey to the New World*
- *Ella Enchanted*
- *Eric Liddell*

Social Studies (Macmillan/McGraw-Hill *World Adventures in Time and Place*)

Science (BJU Press *Life Science*)

Writing (IEW)

Curriculum Content Overview

Language Arts

In addition to novels (see list above), poetry is taught, including:

- Writing and Grammar
- Parts of Speech
- Sentence Structure
- Usage
- Mechanics
- Writing Projects (description, exposition, narration, persuasion, poetry)
- Study and Reference Skills
- Composition Skills

Bible

Memory Challenge:

Students memorize and study one or two verses each week.

Small Group Study:

Girls and boys meet separately on a weekly basis. These gender specific small groups have allowed the freedom to discuss topics that are on the guys and girls minds without the competition of the opposite gender.

Times of prayer and open questions have grown our middle school students spiritually. We have allowed this time to be flexible for the students to suggest issues that are on their minds and hearts.

Our middle school chaplain leads weekly Middle School Chapel. It includes music and a Bible lesson with student participation. Special guests have spoken or performed as well.

Science

Life Science (BJU Press)

- Classifying living things
- Cells
- Genetics
- Biblical Creationism
- Biological Evolution
- Microbiology
- Plant Biology
- Animal Kingdom
- Ecosystem
- Organism Relationships
- Natural Resources
- Structure and Function of the Human Body

Math

The University of Chicago School Mathematics Project Transition Mathematics Published by Wright Group McGraw Hill

This course provides a smooth path from arithmetic to geometry and is therefore titled “Transition”. There are large amounts of geometry integrated with applied arithmetic and algebra. This provides enough prior knowledge for students to complete algebra in the eighth grade and be ready for geometry in ninth grade. Both skills and concepts are acquired through the use of real world connections, reading mathematics, and technology.

- Reading and Writing Numbers
- Using Variables
- Decimals/Percentages/Fractions
- Representing Sets of Numbers and Shapes
- Patterns Leading to Addition and Subtraction
- Geometry
- Multiplication in Geometry
- Multiplication in Algebra
- Patterns Leading to Division
- Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Geometry in Space
- Statistics and Variability

Social Studies

MacMillan/ McGraw Hill Adventures in Time and Place

Seventh grade units include:

- Early America
- European Exploration
- Colonies
- Independence
- Constitution

Other subjects taught weekly in Seventh 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

- Vocal Choir (for sixth grade)
- Orchestra
- 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.

Seventh 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

Community Food Pantries
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.

Updated 6/21