



NORTH COBB  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

M

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

Cultivating Hearts.  
Challenging Minds. Impacting Culture.



[ncchristian.org](http://ncchristian.org)



770.975.0252



4500 Eagle Drive  
Kennesaw, GA





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# MISSION STATEMENT

Committed to Jesus Christ, North Cobb Christian School provides a biblically based, academically excellent education in a nurturing environment, developing students' potential to impact their world for Christ.

## CORE VALUES

### **LOVE** FOR GOD, NEIGHBORS AND SELF

*And he answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.' Luke 10:27*

### **INTEGRITY** IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

*Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. John 3:18*

### **RESPECT** FOR PEOPLE, PROPERTY AND IDEAS

*Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Peter 2:17*

### **RESPONSIBILITY** IN WORDS AND ACTIONS

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men. Colossians 3:23*

### **SERVICE** TO OTHERS FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45*





# WELCOME TO THE NORTH COBB CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY!

The adventure has begun! And isn't that what Middle School should be? An adventure? After all, this is an unprecedented season of growth and change. At North Cobb Christian School, we perceive adolescence as a time of immense potential -- a time for expanded leadership, where students are given increased freedom and responsibility to pursue academic acuity and God-given gifts. Like springs finally released, we watch our students launch forward into all they were created to become.

## UNSHAKEABLE FOUNDATION

When adolescents are provided with a supportive, nurturing, innovative environment in which to grow and learn, amazing things ensue. For our students, the result is an unshakeable foundation of faith and identity. In our classrooms and throughout our halls, students are guided towards truth -- both scriptural truth and the truth of who they are, at their core. In truth, they find freedom. And in that freedom, they soar.

## HOME AWAY FROM HOME

There is a tangible difference that can be felt as you walk the halls of the NCCS Middle School. In fact, the number one comment we receive from parents and students alike is that our school just feels different, that it "feels like home." This difference is not achieved accidentally; rather, it is the purposeful result of combining a loving, passionate and skilled faculty with a research-based, biblically-founded instructional program geared specifically towards adolescents.

## WELL-ROUNDED APPROACH

A multidisciplinary approach is foundational to this program, developing students into authentic, well-rounded Christian leaders. Our instructional approach utilizes a balance between academics, athletics, fine arts and student life. We combine a robust curriculum with challenging learning environments to achieve student mastery through knowing, understanding and doing. And of course, the cornerstone of our Middle School program is our amazingly dedicated faculty -- the "living curriculum," who purposefully invest in each student's wellbeing.

Most importantly, our students receive an education that is filtered through a biblical worldview, equipping them to sit at the table of influence and impact our culture for Christ. In every way possible, NCCS Middle School students are prepared physically, spiritually, academically and socially for high school -- and all that lies beyond.



# COURSE OFFERINGS



## 5 GRADE FIVE

Bible  
History  
Technology  
Fine Arts  
Chorus 5 & 6

Language Arts  
Science  
Physical Education  
Band 5 & 6  
Visual Arts 5 & 6

Math  
Study Skills  
Foreign Language  
Orchestra 5 & 6

## 6 GRADE SIX

Bible  
World History  
Technology  
Fine Arts  
Chorus 5 & 6

Language Arts  
Life Science  
Physical Education  
Band 5 & 6  
Visual Arts 5 & 6

Math/Adv Math  
Study Skills  
Foreign Language  
Orchestra 5 & 6

## 7 GRADE SEVEN

Bible  
Adv Pre-Algebra  
Study Skills  
Fine Arts  
Chorus 7 & 8  
Photography 7 & 8

Language Arts  
Early Amer History  
Technology  
Band 7 & 8  
Visual Arts 7 & 8  
Videography 7 & 8

Pre-Algebra  
Earth Science  
Physical Education  
Orchestra 7 & 8  
Drama 7 & 8  
Foreign Language\*

## 8 GRADE EIGHT

Bible  
Transition to Algebra  
Mod Amer History  
Study Skills  
Physical Education  
Orchestra 7 & 8  
Drama 7 & 8

Language Arts  
Algebra 1  
Mod Amer History Adv  
French 1  
Fine Arts  
Chorus 7 & 8  
Photography 7 & 8

Language Arts Adv  
Algebra 1 Adv  
Physical Science  
Spanish 1  
Band 7 & 8  
Visual Arts 7 & 8  
Videography 7 & 8

*\*Spanish, French, Technology, Foundations of Language/Speech: quarterly rotation*







# DISTINCTIVES

At NCCS, the Middle School experience is distinctively crafted for the adolescent learner - body, mind and soul. Here are the program differentials that set NCCS apart.





# PATHWAYS



## AS PARENTS, IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR ADOLESCENT THE BIGGEST GIFT,

wouldn't it be to help them discover their true identities - to lay a firm foundation of self-worth, self-respect and strong character during these crucial years?

At North Cobb Christian School, we have implemented just such an impactful identity tool: the Pathways Program, which proactively guides 5th through 8th grade students in exploring their true selves.

Through a curriculum taught weekly in Bible class -- as well as real-world experiences and a portfolio of self-reflections -- concepts like integrity, loyalty, teamwork and spiritual gifts are deeply explored. An array of 10 formal assessment tools (e.g. StrengthsFinder and the Comprehensive Executive Function Inventory) are also utilized, bringing inner strengths to light.

The Pathways Program, which is exclusive to NCCS, was designed to help students answer the following questions:

**Why am I here? What has God created me for?**

**How can I build my character?**

**What is the best way for me to learn?**

**What am I really good at?**

**What are my spiritual gifts?**

**What am I most passionate about when I am on a team?**

**How do I tend to lead others?**

Every Friday in Bible class, students explore these topics and more through curriculum, assessments, and discussions. Assessments focus on themes like attention, emotional regulation, flexibility, organization, working memory, planning, self-monitoring and initiation. Through these assessments, students glean insight into their particular giftings, and parents and teachers glean insight into how to meet students' needs as unique individuals.

The concepts of character, teamwork and discipleship are also applied in real-time during a LeaderTreks wilderness adventure. Through this experience, students become even more assured of their identity.

Annually, students write a self-reflection summary of their Pathways journey, crafting a portfolio of their personal growth. Parents are then presented with a snapshot of their child's personal journey at the conclusion of each school year -- with a full, insightful, comprehensive portfolio being presented upon the completion of 8th grade. The purpose of Pathways is to equip students to say, "This is who I am ... here is my unique genius."



FALL  
RETREAT



## THE BEGINNING OF EACH NEW SCHOOL YEAR IS A CRITICAL TIME OF MAKING FRIENDSHIPS,

getting to know teachers, and acclimating to a new schedule. To proactively establish strong bonds within our school family, NCCS Middle School and Upper School students participate in an annual fall retreat.

These overnight retreats are held off campus, allowing students to grow in their relationships with each other, as well as with the Lord. Tucked away from the bustle of schedules, distractions, and pressures, our students are given time to be grounded in God's Word. Our retreats are purposefully designed to be culturally relevant while charting a positive, unprecedented path for a great school year.



# TIMOTHY PROGRAM



## THE POWER OF PEER MENTORSHIP IS UNDENIABLE.

According to the Youth Mentorship initiative, students who regularly meet with a mentor are 76 percent more likely to graduate from college and 64 percent less likely to become involved with drugs and alcohol than their peers. Additionally, students in mentor relationships are less susceptible to school-related depression, social anxiety and behavioral issues. Basically, when older students pour into younger students, good things happen.

At North Cobb Christian School, we have developed the Timothy Program, an intentional peer-to-peer mentoring format based on Paul's mentorship of Timothy in the book of Acts. Students in grades 9 through 12 volunteer to serve as mentors, meeting for one hour a week with students in grades K5 through 8th throughout the school year. Currently, the program serves over 110 students.

Timothy pairs might work through homework together, grapple with social or relational issues, explore a biblical topic, or just hang out and discuss life. The program is overseen by our counseling department, who ensures a positive experience for both mentors and mentees. The end goal is to provide an additional layer of support, guidance, and acceptance for students here at NCCS.



# HABITUDES + ADVISORY GROUPS



## IN A WORLD BRIMMING WITH MORE SELFIES THAN SELF-REFLECTION, TURNING A CHILD INTO A LEADER CAN BE A FEAT.

So, what if leadership were actually *taught* in schools? What if, by the time students graduated, they had completed a comprehensive leadership curriculum imparting perseverance, grit, empathy and character? How would those students be different as adults – and how would that school culture be different?

To answer these questions, step inside our Middle School and Upper School, where our 5th through 12th grade students walk through the aptly named *Habitudes* curriculum, developed by John Maxwell and Tim Elmore's *Growing Leaders* organization to instill valuable leadership and life skills. This curriculum is imparted to our students during weekly chapels and also applied during Advisory Groups -- close-knit groups of six to twelve same-gender students who meet regularly with a faculty advisor during school.

The big idea behind *Habitudes* is to glean lessons -- "habitudes and attitudes" -- that equip students to navigate life's challenges and opportunities. Lessons include breaking free from peer pressure, developing empathy, embracing hard work and resilience, and nurturing personal strengths. The program makes each principle concrete and accessible through images, relatable stories and experiences.

A new Habitude is introduced each month during weekly chapels and further discussed during Advisory Groups, where students develop strong, authentic relationships. Discussion questions and videos are also sent home to parents, so the conversation can extend outside of school.

The Habitudes, coupled with our impactful Advisory Groups, are culture keepers at NCCS, crafting an undercurrent of character across all grade levels. There's a special accountability that occurs when all students are focusing on the same in-depth concepts at the same time. It's a personal-development game changer.





CLUBS

OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE AN ARRAY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE TALENTS AND INTERESTS DURING THE REGULAR SCHOOL DAY THROUGH OVER 30 CLUB OFFERINGS.

Students select two clubs per semester, which may include themes such as Mach 5, Great Outdoors, No-Bake Cooking, Animation, Recycling, Journaling, Science Olympiad, Star Wars, Newspaper Writing, Book Club, Guitar Club, and many more! The clubs are sponsored by Middle School teachers, who pour into students through creative, hands-on experiences. Our unique, in-school club format fosters strong relationships between teachers and students, while also adding an exciting extracurricular element to the Middle School program.





FALL  
TERM

19



AS PART OF OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM,  
OUR 5TH THROUGH 8TH GRADE STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATE IN FALL TERM.

This is an intentional week of outside-the-classroom learning, where students are given exciting, real-world opportunities to explore and learn. Each grade level participates in a different experience, from exploring our own community's cultural highlights to experiencing our nation's history through an 8th grade trip to Washington, D. C. These experiences are designed to launch students beyond the textbook, tapping into their natural curiosity as they become lifelong learners.



# ONE TO ONE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE



## HAVING ACCESS TO CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION IN THE CLASSROOM IS A KEY COMPONENT OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE AT NCCS.

Each student in grades 5 through 8 is issued their own Chromebook, which they utilize in class to follow along with note-taking guides, access and complete class assignments digitally, communicate with their teachers, and click on links during interactive teacher lectures. The end goal is to allow students opportunities to become technologically literate as 21st century learners, while also practicing digital stewardship and personal responsibility.

Our program goes beyond the traditional educational technology paradigm; we train our students to become positive digital citizens, growing in competitive skills while learning how to protect themselves from unintended digital consequences and content. Ultimately, NCCS Middle School students learn how to impact our culture for Christ while expanding their learning horizons through technology.

## DIGITAL PROGRAM GOALS

- To ensure access to digital resources when off campus
- To increase communication between teachers, students, and parents
- To increase collaboration among peers
- To teach digital citizenship and responsibility
- To provide more immediate insight and feedback into student learning and concept mastery

## DIGITAL INTEGRATION

**MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS UTILIZE THESE HIGH-TECH TOOLS FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNING WITH STEWARDSHIP AND SECURITY:**

**Chromebook and G Suite** for Education

**Google Classroom** Used by teachers to communicate, assign work, and collect assignments.

**Securly Web Content Filter** Used by NCCS to filter student web traffic, ensuring a secure experience while using school-issued Chromebooks and accounts, on and off campus.

**Securly Classroom** Used by teachers to keep students on-task during class.

**FACTS ParentsWeb** Used by teachers to communicate grades and student achievement to parents.

**Securly (Parent Portal)** Used by parents to review students' browsing history and to provide additional control over web traffic while off campus.

**G Suite (Gmail, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides)** Used by students to collaborate on projects and complete assignments

**Digital Textbooks** Utilized to ensure ease of access to curriculum materials.



5

GRADE  
5

23

## GRADE 5

### BIBLE

#### *Anchors and Touchstones: The Old Testament*

The primary goal for 5th grade Bible is for the Word of God to become more meaningful in the lives of students. The mastery of seeking truth in the scriptures is accomplished through research, role play, newspaper writing, and journaling. Students consider how scripture works in their lives on a daily basis. Class topics include Old Testament Law, Theophany (the appearance of God), and Biblical narratives. The final quarter of the year focuses on God's covenant with Abraham through Jesus Christ and how it applies to students today. Students also participate in the Pathways program, dedicated to the growth of character and exploration of each student's ingrained strengths (*see pp. 9-10*).

### LANGUAGE ARTS

This course includes the study of grammar, writing, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. The six traits of writing are taught and practiced through various writing assignments, and grammar is effectively taught through mini lessons that focus on revising writing. The study of vocabulary is taught to emphasize understanding and usage. Students are involved in weekly small literature groups that incorporate vocabulary, reading skills, metacognitive reading strategies, and literature elements that guide students to comprehend and analyze text collectively and independently. Students develop higher-level reading skills that equip them to think critically about any type of text (written or spoken) from a biblical worldview.

*\*Completion of a summer packet is required for this course.*

### MATH

In Math 5, students continue to build on previous mastery concepts including multiplication and division of whole numbers. Knowledge of whole number "place value" is extended to decimals, while number theory concepts, such as "greatest common factor" and "least common multiple," are applied within fraction operation processes. Through both computation and problem solving, students add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and decimals. The year concludes with measurement and basic geometry concepts, including converting measurements, classifying two-dimensional figures, and calculating perimeter, area, and volume.

*\*Completion of a summer packet is required for this course.*

### HISTORY

#### *Ancient and Classical Civilizations*

Students develop and refine their analytical, writing, and critical thinking skills through the investigation of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Rome, and Greece. This examination is formulated both on a geographical and historical perspective, particularly by studying the development and unique characteristics of geographically based people groups. Paralleled with this study is an intertwining biblical narrative, fostering a strong historical understanding of the Bible.



## SCIENCE

Science 5 is designed to be an introductory and overview course in a rotating semester format for the topics that will be studied in grades 6, 7, and 8. Students explore studies in Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science, with many opportunities for hands-on application, both in the classroom and in the science laboratory.

## SPANISH

In 5th grade, students recognize that Spanish is the second-most spoken language in the world, while also exploring Latin American traditions, food, dance, art and celebrations. Students grow in their understanding of God's desire for people of all languages to become part of his kingdom as they gain a greater awareness of cultures (Rev. 5:9). Through an expanded base of Spanish vocabulary, students begin to master more complex commands and phrases, as well as Bible verses. Additionally, students glean conversational norms, participating in short, simple conversations.

## TECHNOLOGY

Computer Technology in 5th grade focuses on mastery of the Qwerty Keyboard, alongside relevant assignments coordinated with grade-level teachers to support the overall academic curriculum. Students engage in various computer exercises that strengthen cognitive reasoning skills, keyboarding speed, and accuracy. The end goal is the development of keyboarding skills to help students efficiently manage assignments as they navigate Middle School and beyond. In addition, students throughout the NCCS Middle School program are each issued a Chromebook as part of the One To One Technology Initiative, gleaned digital citizenship and responsibility. (See p. 21.)

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The focus of this course is to introduce principles of physical education, fitness and health, while improving the fitness level of each student. This class is designed to mold students' mindsets and attitudes related to the importance of exercise and the health of our "temple" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Rules and techniques of play for a variety of lifetime sports are also taught.

## STUDY SKILLS

Study skills are taught and designed to be transferable to all academic classes. Study skills objectives for 5th grade are taught in each subject area class. Skills include critical thinking development, organizational skills, time-management strategies, note-taking skills, group learning, and basic library and research skills.

## FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

### BAND 5 & 6

Band in grades 5 and 6 reinforces fundamental skills and theory while challenging students to move towards a higher level of performance and music theory proficiency. Students also learn about being part of an ensemble, developing valuable lifelong character skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, creativity and expression. Students build confidence for performing in both the large group band, as well as individually. Band 5 & 6 participates in at least four performances per year, including a Christmas production and a festival adjudication experience. At least one year of prior experience (in class or private lessons) on a band instrument (flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium/baritone, tuba, or percussion) is preferred for admittance into this ensemble.

### ORCHESTRA 5 & 6

Orchestra in grades 5 and 6 reinforces fundamental skills and theory while challenging students to move towards a higher level of performance and music theory proficiency. Students also learn about being part of an ensemble, developing valuable lifelong character skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, creativity and expression. Students build confidence for performing in both the large group orchestra, as well as individually. Orchestra 5 & 6 participates in at least four performances per year, including a Christmas production and a festival adjudication concert. At least one year of prior experience (in class or private lessons) on a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, string bass) is required for admittance into this ensemble.

### CHORUS 5 & 6

Chorus 5 & 6 is designed for students who enjoy music, have a passion for singing, and have a general interest in improving their voices. This is a performing ensemble that showcases music of many styles and genres while gaining a basic knowledge of music theory. Chorus members study gospel music, art songs, classical music, madrigals, and Broadway tunes, as well as pop and contemporary styles. Students perform in Christmas and spring productions, in addition to participating in a choral festival in the spring.

### VISUAL ARTS 5 & 6

Visual Arts 5 & 6 seeks to give students a clear visual awareness of God's creation, as well as to help them understand that their creativity and skills can be used to glorify the Creator. This course engages students in a higher-order creative thinking process, including aesthetic understanding, imagination, creativity and problem solving. Students come to understand art in relation to history and culture, also making connections to the disciplines of math and science. Additionally, students work on developing life skills, such as time management and persistence, through the production of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional artworks using a variety of media and techniques, from drawing, painting and printmaking to ceramics, sculpture and fiber arts.



6

GRADE  
6

# GRADE 6

## BIBLE

### *Life of Christ and the Early Church*

In 6th grade Bible, students journey through God's Word with a survey of the Old Testament in the first semester and a survey of the New Testament during second semester. During our studies of the Old Testament, 6th graders discover the significance of The Fall, God's covenants, the prophets and judges, along with the fall of Israel and its ultimate exile. Israel's destruction leads into the Intertestamental Period commonly referred to as "The Silent Years," which ends with the beginning of the New Testament in Matthew's gospel account of the birth of Christ. In our studies of the New Testament, students see how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, as well as the perfect upholder of God's law and ultimately the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. Students will also continue through the Pathways curriculum, with an emphasis on "identity" and building their identity in Christ. (See pp. 9-10.)

## LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 6 ties together grammar, composition, reading, and vocabulary. Students continue to focus on the writing process and the traits of writing during this course, exploring informational, narrative, and persuasive writing throughout the year. By building concept-upon-concept in grammar and writing, students gain the sequential mastery to write clearly and effectively. Students also engage in a variety of literary genres, read for various purposes, and think critically about a text through oral and written communication. Students are involved in weekly small groups that incorporate vocabulary, reading skills, metacognitive reading strategies, and literature elements, guiding students to comprehend and analyze text collectively and independently. Ultimately, students develop critical reading skills that equip them to think analytically about any type of text (written or spoken) from a biblical worldview.

*\*Completion of a summer packet is required for this course.*

## MATH

In Math 6, students build on previous mastery concepts, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals and fractions. The purpose of Math 6 is to move students from a concrete understanding of general mathematical concepts towards a foundation of algebraic thinking. Negative numbers are introduced into all four operations, mastered, and then implemented into the solving of one- and two-step equations. Percentages, proportions, data and graph analysis, and measurement are studied in real-world contexts. Students also extend their geometry skills to calculate the volume of more complex three-dimensional figures.

## ADVANCED MATH 6

Prerequisites: 92% final average in Math, completion of advanced math application, and completion of placement test. (Any students with the qualifying average will be accepted, and any concerns regarding placement will be appropriately communicated to the parent.)

In Advanced Math 6, students are expected to have mastered with speed the concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. This course allows students with a greater mathematical understanding to move quickly towards obtaining a strong pre-algebra foundation. The concepts covered in Math 6 are included in this advanced class at a deeper level. In addition, several more complex topics are taught, such as negative exponents, multiplying and dividing monomials, multi-step equations and inequalities, and surface area.

*\*Completion of a summer packet is required for this course.*

## HISTORY

### *World History / European Migration*

In this course, students deal specifically with the movement of people in Europe throughout the world and its influence on other regions as a cultural epicenter. Our examination includes Medieval Europe, Africa, Russia, Australia, Canada, South America, and Central America. The exploration of European Migration requires continued refinement of analytical, writing, and critical thinking skills, specifically with linear understanding of historical and cultural relationships.

## SCIENCE

### *Life Science*

Life Science is an introductory course designed to help students identify basic biology principles, exploring the variety of life God has created. The study focuses on the idea that no evolutionary process could adequately explain the diversity, complexity, and order that can be seen in the living kingdoms. Study includes cell structure and function, heredity, and body systems.

## SPANISH

In 6th grade, students recognize that Spanish is the second-most spoken language in the world, while also exploring Latin American traditions, food, dance, art and celebrations. Students grow in their understanding of God's desire for people of all languages to become part of his kingdom as they gain a greater awareness of cultures (Rev. 5:9). Through an expanded base of Spanish vocabulary, students begin to master more complex commands and phrases, as well as Bible verses. Additionally, students glean conversational norms, participating in short, simple conversations.

## TECHNOLOGY

Computer Technology at the 6th grade level concentrates on building computer programming skills while strengthening math and science skills. Students work with block coding focused on Algebraic principles and scientific critical thinking skills. Paralleling with classroom assignments coordinated with grade-level teachers, cross-curricular activities are employed that utilize technology to strengthen cognitive reasoning skills. Expanded practice in critical and logical thinking will equip students to tackle assignments in math and science as they navigate upper Middle School grades.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The focus of this course is to introduce principles of physical education, fitness and health, while improving the fitness level of each student. This class is designed to mold students' mindsets and attitudes related to the importance of exercise and the health of our "temple" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Rules and techniques of play for a variety of lifetime sports are also taught.

## STUDY SKILLS

Study skills are taught and designed to be transferable to all academic classes. Study skills objectives for 6th grade are introduced and applied within each subject area class. Skills include critical thinking development, organizational skills, time-management strategies, note-taking skills, group learning, and basic library and research skills.

## FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

### BAND 5 & 6

Band in grades 5 and 6 reinforces fundamental skills and theory while challenging students to move towards a higher level of performance and music theory proficiency. Students also learn about being part of an ensemble, developing valuable lifelong character skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, creativity and expression. Students build confidence for performing in both the large group band, as well as individually. Band 5 & 6 participates in at least four performances per year, including a Christmas production and a festival adjudication experience. At least one year of prior experience (in class or private lessons) on a band instrument (flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium/baritone, tuba, or percussion) is preferred for admittance into this ensemble.

### ORCHESTRA 5 & 6

Orchestra in grades 5 and 6 reinforces fundamental skills and theory while challenging students to move towards a higher level of performance and music theory proficiency. Students also learn about being part of an ensemble, developing valuable lifelong character skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, creativity and expression. Students build confidence for performing in both the large group orchestra, as well as individually. Orchestra 5 & 6 participates in at least four performances per year, including a Christmas production and a festival adjudication concert. At least one year of prior experience (in class or private lessons) on a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, string bass) is required for admittance into this ensemble.

### CHORUS 5 & 6

Chorus 5 & 6 is designed for students who enjoy music, have a passion for singing, and have a general interest in improving their voices. This is a performing ensemble that showcases music of many styles and genres while gaining a basic knowledge of music theory. Chorus members study gospel music, art songs, classical music, madrigals, and Broadway tunes, as well as pop and contemporary styles. Students perform in Christmas and spring productions, in addition to participating in a choral festival in the spring.

### VISUAL ARTS 5 & 6

Visual Arts 5 & 6 seeks to give students a clear visual awareness of God's creation, as well as to help them understand that their creativity and skills can be used to glorify the Creator. This course engages students in a higher-order creative thinking process, including aesthetic understanding, imagination, creativity and problem solving. Students come to understand art in relation to history and culture, also making connections to the disciplines of math and science. Additionally, students work on developing life skills, such as time management and persistence, through the production of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional artworks using a variety of media and techniques, from drawing, painting and printmaking to ceramics, sculpture and fiber arts.



GRADE  
7

# GRADE 7

## BIBLE

### *Foundations of Doctrine*

In this class, students examine biblical truths essential to developing a biblical worldview, including the trinity, the church, man and sin, and the scriptures. Students intentionally endeavor to search the scriptures regarding these topics. This course also dives into the world of Christian denominationalism. By examining different Christian denominations, students learn to appreciate the history and differences that exist amongst them. Through a systematic approach, this course leaves students with a fuller understanding of orthodox Christian beliefs and practices.

Complimenting their spiritual studies, the Pathways program for 7th grade includes curriculum, assessments and experiences that answer the following two questions: What are my spiritual gifts, and what am I most passionate about when I am on a team? (See pp. 9-10.) Emphasis is placed on helping students understand how they are wired to use their influence for spiritual impact.

## LANGUAGE ARTS

This course includes studies in grammar, composition, vocabulary, and literature. Students continue to expand their writing skills and produce descriptive, expository, literary analysis and argumentative research writing. Through the writing process, students learn revision techniques that result in written work that is clear and informative. Students demonstrate an understanding of the rules of the English language in both written essays and presentations. Through exposure to a variety of literature, students analyze complex literary elements while learning how to read and think critically about a text in light of a biblical worldview. Classes are scheduled by gender.

*\*Completion of a summer packet is required for this course.*

## MATH | PRE-ALGEBRA

In Pre-Algebra, students incorporate previous mastery concepts including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions and integers into the study of algebraic principles. Students simplify, write, and evaluate algebraic expressions before transitioning into writing and solving multi-step equations and inequalities. The study of ratios and proportions is transferred to percentage calculation and application. Students identify the rate of change of linear functions and graph them on the coordinate plane. Using the Distance Formula, students calculate the distance between two points and solve for missing values in a right triangle using the Pythagorean Theorem.

*\*Completion of a summer packet is required for this course.*

## MATH | ADVANCED PRE-ALGEBRA

Prerequisites: 85% final average in Advanced Math 6 or 92% final average in Math 6, completion of advanced math application, and completion of placement test. (Any students with a qualifying average will be accepted; concerns regarding placement will be communicated to the parent.)

In Advanced Pre-Algebra, students are expected to have mastered with speed the concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and integers. Advanced Pre-Algebra is designed for the highly motivated student. The concepts covered in Pre-Algebra are included in this advanced class at a deeper level. In addition, several more complex topics are taught, such as unit conversions, literal equations, factoring, and solving systems of equations.

*\*Completion of a summer packet is required for this course.*





## HISTORY

### *Early American History: The American Dream*

In this course, students examine the underlying events and circumstances that resulted in the birth of the United States of America. Through this preliminary study of American history, students focus on the following major topics: Colonial Era, Revolutionary War, the New Nation, Manifest Destiny, and the Civil War with Reconstruction. Accompanying this examination is a parallel study on biblical text that is applicable to this course. Through an in-depth exploration of this material, students develop and refine writing and critical thinking skills.

## SCIENCE

### *Earth Science*

This is a survey course focusing on the interactions and workings of our physical planet as studied in geology and meteorology, as well as our place in space through astronomy. Students are encouraged to develop critical reasoning skills, as secular concepts are examined through a biblical worldview. Students engage in the survey areas through collaborative classroom and science laboratory activities, building the skills needed to competitively thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century arena. This course's central theme is that God is the creator of the Earth and the universe and that "in Him, all things hold together."

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### INTRODUCTORY SPANISH | 3 days a week, 9 week course

In Spanish 7, students expand their basic knowledge of the language. They are introduced to fundamental grammatical concepts, which enable them to begin writing complete sentences in Spanish, as well as increasing their oral comprehension of the language. Students also continue to build on their vocabulary base as they are encouraged to speak Spanish. Cultural differences are highlighted and leveraged to expand students' Christian worldview.

### INTRODUCTORY FRENCH | 3 days a week, 9 week course

In this introductory class, students develop an appreciation for the French language and culture. They learn to engage in basic, present-tense conversations, while gleaning vocabulary associated with travel, such as how to ask for directions, order food in a restaurant, and function in both school and home settings. Students also recognize formal and informal figures of speech in French. Expanding on their cultural awareness, students will identify French-speaking nations around the world and know relevant facts about each. The need for missions work in many French-speaking countries will also be examined.

### TECHNOLOGY | 3 days a week, 9 week course

Computer Technology at the 7th grade level builds on computer programming skills learned in prior grades. This 9-week course is part of the foreign language rotation wheel. While not a "foreign language," per se, programing does involve learning a "digital language" that requires students to think logically and phrase computer commands in a syntax and manner comparable to a foreign language. Exposure to languages, including coding, equips students for success in Upper School courses in computer programing and languages.



## FOUNDATIONS OF LANGUAGE | 3 days a week, 9 week course

This course introduces students to techniques used in public speaking. Students study and analyze a variety of public speaking genres, including informative, persuasive, dramatic, and special occasion speeches. Students read and listen to models of speeches, as well as preparing and presenting original speeches. Students learn to choose speaking topics and adapt them to specific audiences, to research and support their own ideas, and to benefit from listener feedback. Additionally, students utilize well-designed visual and multimedia aids and study ways to manage communication anxiety. Biblical references of God-honoring speech are discussed throughout the course.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

The focus of this class is to introduce principles of physical education, fitness and health. This class is designed to change the mindset and attitude on the importance of exercise and the health of our "temple." Our mission is to expose and improve the fitness level of our students. Rules and techniques of play in a variety of lifetime sports will be taught.

## STUDY SKILLS

Study skills are taught and designed to be transferable to all academic classes. The study skills objectives for 7th grade will be taught in each subject area class. Skills include critical thinking development, organizational skills, time management strategies, note taking skills, group learning, and basic library and research skills.

## FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

### BAND 7 & 8

Band in grades 7 and 8 reinforces fundamental skills and theory while challenging students to move towards a higher level of performance and music theory proficiency. Students also learn about being part of an ensemble as well as learn valuable lifelong character development skills such as teamwork, problem solving, creativity and expression that will assist them in other areas of life. Students build confidence for performing in both the large group band, as well as individually. Band 7 & 8 participates in at least four performances per year, including a Christmas production and a festival adjudication experience. At least one year of prior experience (in class or private lessons) on a band instrument (flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium/baritone, tuba, or percussion) is required for admittance into this ensemble. Exceptions are by audition only.

### ORCHESTRA 7 & 8

Orchestra in grades 7 and 8 reinforces fundamental skills and theory while challenging students to move towards a higher level of performance and music theory proficiency. Students also learn about being part of an ensemble as well as learn valuable lifelong character development skills such as teamwork, problem solving, creativity and expression that will assist them in other areas of life. Students build confidence for performing in both the large group orchestra, as well as individually. Orchestra 7 & 8 participates in at least four performances per year, including a Christmas production and a festival adjudication concert. At least one year of prior experience (in class or private lessons) on a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, string bass) is required for admittance into this ensemble. Exceptions are by audition only.



## CHORUS 7 & 8

Chorus 7 and 8 is designed for students who enjoy music, have a passion for singing, and have a general interest in improving their voices. This is a performing ensemble that showcases music of many styles and genres while gaining a basic knowledge of music theory. Chorus members study gospel music, art songs, classical music, madrigals, Broadway tunes, as well as pop and contemporary styles. Students perform in Christmas and spring productions, in addition to participating in a choral festival in the spring.

## DRAMA 7 & 8

This year-long course introduces students to the craft of acting in its various forms. Students are exposed to acting on stage and in front of a camera, both scripted and improvisational. While introducing basic fundamentals of the craft, such as vocabulary and techniques, this course also builds a foundation for continuing on in the theatrical arts courses in Upper School. Coursework consist of improvisational performance exercises, group film projects, monologues, dialogues, and directed scene performances.

## VISUAL ARTS 7 & 8

Visual Arts 7 & 8 is a comprehensive examination of the visual arts. Students are introduced to major concepts in art and a variety of art media and techniques in order to pique their interest for further, more specific training in subsequent years. Projects cover many different basic skills and visual language topics, developing a student's confidence in the art-making process. Inspiring art history icons and major works supplement the studio curriculum and provide a springboard for student creativity. Students also begin to learn to critique their own works, as well as pieces from the past. A student who completes this course will gain personal, genuine experiences in art-making, as well as an established foundation to continue studying art in Upper School and beyond.

## PHOTOGRAPHY 7 & 8

Principles of photography are presented in this exciting offering. Students have the opportunity to study the art of photography, as well as gain experience in the field. The class aids the Upper School yearbook class by supplying pictures for the Middle School section of the yearbook. In addition, students have the opportunity to contribute pictures for Middle School publications, newsletters, and special events. Experienced photographers and those new to the craft are welcome to enroll.

## VIDEOGRAPHY 7 & 8

In this course, students explore the wonders of film-making, editing, and video productions. The class creates productions that will be used during Middle School programs. In addition, students learn the technical skills necessary to help run the audio and video portions of schoolwide and Middle School-specific events, such as chapel, Monday meetings, clubs, and grade celebrations.

GRADE  
8



## GRADE 8

### BIBLE

#### *Worldview and Hermeneutics*

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Bible course focuses on equipping students with a biblical worldview and an ability to read the scriptures with proper understanding and application. Students learn how to think critically about any issue from a biblical point of view, engaging in high-level class discussions that challenge them to examine their own beliefs and analyze alternative points of view. Topics include worldview principles and proper biblical hermeneutics. This class has a heavy emphasis on critical thinking, verbal communication, and writing skills. Pathways content for 8th grade includes curriculum, assessments, and experiences that answer the following two areas: Leadership and Teamwork. This program will be rounded out by focusing on what it means to be a part of a larger team of Christians who share a common mission of making followers of Jesus Christ (*see page 9-10.*)

### LANGUAGE ARTS

This course challenges Middle School students in the areas of grammar, composition, vocabulary, and literature. During the course, students continue to build upon skills learned in previous grades that enable them to read with discernment and to express ideas clearly and effectively. A variety of genres, including historical fiction, fantasy, mystery, biography, and poetry are read during the course. Students are challenged to read and think critically about character motive, author's message, symbolism, and other elements of literature in light of a biblical worldview. Throughout the course, students continue to develop an understanding of the control and rules of the English language in both written and spoken format. Students also analyze and produce quality expository, literary analysis, and argumentative research writing pieces. Classes are scheduled by gender.

*\*Completion of a summer packet is required for this course.*

### ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS

Prerequisite: Application required; 92% final average in Language Arts 7.

This advanced course challenges 8th grade students in the areas of grammar, composition, vocabulary, and literature. The advanced course entails students studying the same literary genres and types of writing as the Language Arts 8 course, but will require students to read more enrichment selections, look for deeper insights into comprehension, and write intensively with analysis and interpretation. This class will be comprised of both genders.

*\*Completion of a summer packet is required for this course.*

### MATH | TRANSITIONS TO ALGEBRA

Note: High school credit is not attainable for completing Transitions to Algebra in 8th grade.

In Transitions to Algebra, students are expected to have mastered with speed the concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and integers. This course is designed to bridge the gap between 7th grade Pre-Algebra and 9th grade Algebra 1. The focus is to reinforce fundamental algebraic skills in order to prepare the student for success in Algebra 1. Students multiply and divide monomials, solve compound inequalities, factor binomials and trinomials, and graph linear and quadratic functions. The process of solving equations is extended to solving absolute value equations, radical equations, quadratic equations, and systems of equations. Algebra skills are incorporated into geometric concepts, as well.

*\*Completion of a summer packet is required for this course.*

## ALGEBRA 1

Prerequisites: 85% final average in Advanced Pre-Algebra or 92% final average in Pre-Algebra is required. Completion of advanced math application and completion of placement test. (Any students with the qualifying average will be accepted; concerns regarding placement will be communicated to the parent.)  
 Note: High school credit is awarded to students who earn a final average of 80% or above.

In Algebra 1, students are expected to have mastered with speed the concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions and integers. Algebra 1 is the fundamental math course that prepares students for all subsequent math courses. Students will master foundational Algebra principles and apply them in a practical methodology, extending the process of solving equations to solve linear, quadratic, rational, and absolute value equations, in addition to systems of equations. Linear, quadratic, exponential, and rational functions are studied, and the Pythagorean Theorem and trigonometric ratios are applied. Graphing calculators are utilized throughout this course. \*Completion of a summer packet is required for this course.

## HONORS ALGEBRA 1

Prerequisites: 92% final average or higher in Advanced Pre-Algebra is required, in addition to completion of advanced math application and completion of placement test.  
 Note: High school credit, plus 0.5 quality point, is awarded to students who earn a final average of 80% or above.

This honors course requires students to study the same mathematical content as the Algebra 1 course, but at a quicker pace, in addition to applying their understanding to more complex problems.

## HISTORY

### *Modern American History - 20<sup>th</sup> Century Conflicts*

In this course, students investigate and discuss specific events within American history during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This study focuses on the following pivotal topics: Imperialism, Progressivism, World War I, World War II, Civil Rights Movement, and the Cold War. Accompanying this examination is a parallel study on applicable biblical text. Through an in-depth exploration of this material, students develop and refine writing and critical thinking skills.

### ADVANCED MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY

Prerequisite: Application required, 92% final average in Early American History 7.

Advanced Modern American History challenges students to implement higher level thinking skills and prepares them for advanced Upper School course work. In addition to covering the same topics listed in Modern American History, students are required to analyze outside reading assignments, examine primary source documents, and complete additional projects and writing assignments. This course is heavy in analytical reading and research writing.

## SCIENCE

### *Physical Science*

Physical Science is an overview of the branches of science dealing with matter, energy, chemistry and physics. Topics covered in this course expand students' understanding of God's omnipotence as the Creator, revealing that "in him, all things hold together" (Col. 1:17). Students apply mathematical skills, develop critical thinking, and hone problem-solving skills as they learn about forces, motion, energy, atomic theory, chemical reaction, magnetism, waves and sound through collaborative methods.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### SPANISH 1

Note: High school credit is awarded to the students who earn a final average of 80% or above.

Spanish I focuses on teaching and understanding the language and its culture. This includes proper pronunciation, building a vocabulary base, and mastering the patterns of commonly used present and past verb tenses, including common irregular verbs and verbs with special uses. Vocabulary learned in Spanish I includes greetings, school life, recreational activities, eating, shopping, daily personal routines, and more. Students are not only expected to understand the language, but more importantly, to produce the language, both orally and in writing, on a daily basis. Foreign language is a skill class, and, therefore, must be put into practice regularly to achieve a degree of fluency.

### FRENCH 1

\*Note: High school credit is awarded to the students who earn a final average of 80% or above.

French I is an introduction to the language. Students will learn to speak and write the language at a functional level. They will be able to engage in simple conversations and express basic feelings and emotions. The vocabulary presented in French I focuses on everyday life, such as school, family, friends, food, clothing, shopping, sports, holidays, and travel. Emphasis is placed on cognates. Basic idiomatic expressions are introduced. From a grammatical standpoint, French I introduces regular conjugations of verbs in the present tense, passé composé, and near future. Some common irregular verbs are also introduced. Students will be able to relate to the French culture and begin to appreciate cultural differences, while integrating biblical principles and discussing the role that Christianity plays in the everyday life of the French people.

## TECHNOLOGY

This year-long course builds on computer programming skills learned in prior grades and is part of the foreign language options given to students in 8th grade. While not a “foreign language,” per se, programing does involve learning a “digital language” that requires students to think logically and phrase computer commands in a syntax and manner comparable to a foreign language. This course provides students with a chance to further explore computer programing and design, guiding students as they choose their Upper School courses in computer programming.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This class reinforces principles of physical education, fitness and health, encouraging a mindset that the health of our “temple” is important. Our mission is to expose and improve the fitness level of our students. Rules and techniques of play in a variety of lifetime sports will be taught.

## STUDY SKILLS

Study skills are taught and designed to be transferable to all academic classes. The study skills objectives for 8th grade are taught in each subject area class. Skills include critical thinking development, organizational skills, time management strategies, note taking skills, group learning, and basic library and research skills.

## FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

### BAND 7 & 8

While Concert Band is primarily designed for students with three or more years of training on a band instrument, any students who desire to develop their musical talent are able to join. Experienced students should know the first four major scales and the two-octave chromatic. Students gain musical development via performance preparation and presentation, including representing the school at festivals, concerts, and other outreach events.

### ORCHESTRA 7 & 8

The emphasis of this class is the refinement of proper playing techniques, music comprehension, and music theory elements. Students continue developing individual playing skills, while at the same time focusing on group development and playing from a varied repertoire. Opportunities are given throughout the year for individual, large group, and small group performances, which include school holiday concerts, chapel performances, solo and ensemble festivals and concerts, and other venues.

### CHORUS 7 & 8

This performing ensemble is designed for students who have a true desire to sing, perform and improve their voices through different music styles and genres. Students are challenged to be versatile by studying two-, three-, and four-part art songs, gospel music, classical music, madrigals, Broadway, pop, and contemporary selections. This ensemble performs at school events, a Christmas production, spring concert, choral festival, and community events.

### VISUAL ARTS 7 & 8

In this comprehensive examination of the visual arts, students are introduced to major concepts in art. Projects cover many basic skills and visual language topics, developing a student's confidence in the art-making process. Inspiring art history icons and major works supplement the studio curriculum and provide a springboard for student creativity. Students also learn to critique their work, as well as those from the past. A student who completes this course will gain personal, genuine experiences in art making, as well as an established foundation to continue studying art in Upper School and beyond.

### DRAMA 7 & 8

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770.975.0252



4500 Eagle Drive  
Kennesaw, GA