



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

MT. BETHEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Grades 6 - 8



## **Middle School**

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **Language Arts – 6th Grade**

Sixth Grade Language Arts is a comprehensive program to teach students oral and written conversational skills through intensive grammar instruction, vocabulary enrichment and expository and narrative writing. There is an extensive focus on grammar and how it coincides with writing. The writing process is taught through short papers coupled with longer, more extensive writing pieces. The sixth graders will write short stories, persuasive papers, descriptive writing and formal research papers. Literature from a variety of genres, including poetry, novels, and short stories, is used to complement these goals.

#### **Language Arts – 7th Grade**

Seventh Grade Language Arts combines grammar, writing, literature and vocabulary to teach oral and written conversational skills. Studying the proper use of the eight parts of speech will help students write clearly and effectively. Selected short stories, poetry and novels are used to teach students how to interpret literature from a Christian worldview. Vocabulary enrichment will prepare students for a more comprehensive understanding of the English language. Writing includes essays, journal and creative writings, persuasive and narrative writings, and a research paper.

#### **Language Arts – 8th Grade**

Eighth Grade Language Arts is a comprehensive program designed to prepare students for a demanding high school English curriculum by teaching students oral and written conversational skills. The goal of academic success rests on a student's ability to read and write well, to think and speak clearly and to listen intelligently. This is accomplished through intensive instruction in grammar punctuation and usage, along with vocabulary enrichment and expository and narrative writing. Literature from a variety of genres, including poetry, novels, and short stories, is used to complement these goals.

### **MATHEMATICS**

#### **Math - 7th Grade**

The 6th Grade Math curriculum is an expansion of previously learned math principles and concepts. Students are expected to come in with basic knowledge of digits and numbers. Progression will lead to order of operations, powers and square roots. Students will be introduced to graphing, statistics, number theory and probability. Students will become familiar with ratios, volume and area and geometry.

### **Advanced Math - 6th Grade**

Advanced Math for 6th Grade emphasizes the study of pre-algebra and includes further exploration of all basic mathematical principles and concepts previously learned. Students will study decimals, solving equations with variables, fractions, percents, and area/volume formulas. Students will also explore geometry including angles and congruency. The course will focus on basic operations with integers, coordinate graphing or linear equations, with an introduction to probability and statistics.

### **Math - 7th Grade**

Students will learn the relationship between algebra, integers & rational numbers, will study how algebra applies to geometry, and extend algebra to statistics and polynomials. In this course, students will progress through fractions and equations to the coordinate system. Students will learn factoring, ratios, proportions, and percents, and will solve equations & inequalities. Additional studies will include graphing, real numbers, right triangles, and two and three dimensional figures. The course will conclude with a study on polynomials, nonlinear functions and measures of central tendency.

### **Advanced Math - 7th Grade**

Advanced Integrated Math for 7th Grade emphasizes the study of reasoning, proportions, geometry, probability and statistics, and linear and nonlinear functions. Students will explore integers, fractions and decimals, along with square roots, percents, transformations and solving proportions. The course will progress from measuring area and volume through measures of central tendency and matrices, and conclude with solving equations and inequalities, graphing linear functions and studying polynomials.

### **Algebra I - 7th Grade and 8th Grade**

This course emphasizes expressions and equations, linear functions, applying algebra to geometry, polynomials and nonlinear functions and concludes with radicals, rational functions and data analysis. Students will focus on solving linear equations, graphing relations and functions, analyzing linear equations, solving systems of linear equalities and inequalities, parallel and perpendicular lines, factoring and quadratic and exponential functions. The course will include the study of radical expressions and triangles, rational equations, the Pythagorean Theorem, probability and trigonometric ratios.

### **Algebra Concepts - 8th Grade**

This course includes a study of reasoning, proportions, geometry, probability and statistics, and linear and nonlinear functions. Further exploration of integers, fractions and decimals, along with square roots, percents, transformations and solving proportions will be studied. Students will progress from measuring area and volume through measures of central tendency and matrices, and conclude with solving equations and inequalities, graphing linear functions and studying polynomials.

### **Geometry - 8th Grade**

The Geometry curriculum covers lines, angles, and planes, along with the tools of Geometry, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, area, and volume. Specific topics include both inductive and deductive reasoning with proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, proportions, congruence, similarity, right triangles, trigonometry, and transformations. Students will use and expand their knowledge of algebra as they focus on geometric concepts throughout the course.

## **HISTORY**

### **US History - 6th Grade**

This course is a study of events in US history beginning with the Progressive Era in 1865 and moving into modern day history. Students will examine our country's rise to becoming a world power, the causes and effects of both world wars, the Roaring Twenties, and the Great Depression. Additionally, there is a study of the Cold War and modern day prosperity, rebellion, and reform. The class will highlight group discussions about political policies that have shaped our nation. There will also be a unit of study on geography, landforms, climates and the tools of history and social sciences. Vocabulary enrichment will prepare students for a comprehensive understanding of contextual vocabulary in many subject areas. Students are taught to interpret history from a Christian worldview.

### **World History & Geography - 7th Grade**

This course surveys the major cultures, religions and achievements in world history from the beginnings of civilization to the start of the Middle Ages. While this is primarily a History class, geography is an essential component in helping students understand why civilizations originate in certain locations, how ideas and philosophies are disseminated, where historical events

occurred, and how empires develop and progress. Geography, therefore, is discussed and incorporated when it is germane to the historical investigation and student understanding.

### **Modern World History & Georgia History - 8th Grade**

This course is set up as two separate and distinct historical inquiries. Initially, students will continue their study of world history, beginning with the fall of the Roman Empire and tracing historical events up to modern times. Later in the course, we will survey the major events in Georgia history, giving special consideration to the social, economic, and political developments occurring in Georgia over the past two hundred years.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Earth Science - 6th Grade**

This course studies our amazing planet Earth, in depth. The Earth's interior is investigated through the study of Earth's structure, minerals, rocks, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes. The Earth's surface is surveyed through the study of the water cycle, weathering, erosion, glaciers, and the oceans. Weather and climate are explored through the study of the atmosphere, the sun, seasons, solar energy, and winds. Lastly our solar system, the universe and stars are studied. Biblical truths and integration bring students to the realization of how our amazing God could create such awesome splendor. The Cornell note-taking method is modeled and practiced. Numerous hands-on activities and labs are incorporated to enhance concepts and learning. Our portable lap top lab assists us with research and technology.

### **Life Science - 7th Grade**

Life Science is an introduction to Biology. In this course, students will investigate the diversity of living organisms and how they can be compared scientifically. The structure and function of cells, tissues, organs and organ systems are described and investigated. Students are introduced to how biological traits are passed on to successive generations and will learn the role of genes and chromosomes in the process of inheriting a specific trait. The dependence of organisms on one another and their environment is examined through a study of ecology, including ecosystems and biomes. Vocabulary enrichment will prepare students for a comprehensive understanding of contextual vocabulary in many subject areas. Students are taught to interpret science from a Christian worldview.

## **Physical Science – 8th Grade**

The first part of this course is an introduction to chemistry. The physical and chemical properties of matter are explored, along with states of matter, including the Gas Laws and phase changes. Modern Atomic Theory is studied along with the structure of an atom. Students will also investigate the Periodic Table. Chemical bonds and chemical reactions are examined, as well. The second part of this course is an introduction to Physics. Motion, forces, forces in fluids, work, power, machines, energy, heat, sound, optics and electricity are all concepts that are investigated. The Cornell system of note-taking is modeled and practiced. Numerous hands-on activities and labs are experienced to enhance these concepts. Technology assists us with research while using our portable lap top lab. Biblical integration is weaved throughout this course to enrich our students.

## **BIBLE**

### **Bible - 6th Grade**

Sixth Grade Bible is an introduction to the first five books of the Bible. Students experience a continual, personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ as they encounter the text of the Bible. This class will include exploration and experience of the text of the New International Version. The student will be exposed to, learn from, and apply the word of God to his/her life. Bible meets two days per week.

### **Bible - 7th Grade**

Seventh Grade Bible will begin with a review of the Pentateuch after which we will consider the issue of leadership of the Israelites and the passing of the torch from Moses to Joshua. We will follow God's people as they cross The Jordan River to take control of the land of Canaan, promised to them by God. After Canaan's conquest and division, God's story leads to the appointment of Judges, some of which we will highlight as further examples of both good and bad leadership among his people. Following the book of Judges, we will study kingship from Samuel to David to Solomon. We will conclude this year with the study of the divided kingdom and the exile period. Bible meets two days per week.

### **Bible - 8th Grade**

Eighth Grade Bible will be a survey of the New Testament beginning with the gospels and concentrating on the Gospel of John, after which we will study certain Pauline letters. We will end with a brief look at the book of Revelation. Bible meets two days per week.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

### **Latin - 6th Grade**

6th Grade Latin classes build upon the introduction to the Latin language students received in 3rd – 5th grades. Students begin a more formal study of Latin grammar, Latin vocabulary, and English derivatives. They begin to read and translate short Latin passages. Students will take two quarters of Latin in 6th Grade as part of the rotation.

### **Latin - 7th Grade**

The seventh grade Latin curriculum is designed to begin the preparation for students to take Latin II in high school. 7th Grade Latin students will acquire the basics of Latin grammar and vocabulary. Students will read simple Latin stories with comprehension and translate short Latin sentences. Seventh graders will strengthen their knowledge of Latin root words and English derivatives. Latin meets three days a week.

### **Latin - 8th Grade**

The eighth grade curriculum continues the preparation for the Latin II high school course. 8th Grade Latin classes utilize more complex Latin grammatical concepts. Students will continue to increase their Latin vocabulary by intensifying their study of English derivatives. This course includes reading intermediate Latin stories with comprehension and translating Latin sentences using standard English syntax. Latin meets three days a week.

### **Spanish - 7th Grade**

This course is designed to introduce seventh grade students to the Spanish language and its culture. Students will begin developing novice level skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. They will also learn about Spanish-speaking countries and their customs. Class time includes speaking, listening, reading and writing everyday. Students develop a strong foundation on which to continue building their study of Spanish in 8th grade. Spanish meets three days per week.

### **Spanish - 8th Grade**

8th Grade Spanish reinforces the vocabulary and grammar skills acquired in 7th Grade Spanish, with stronger emphasis on grammatical structure and nuances of the language. The majority of the class is conducted in the target language. Class time involves intense oral and written expression, with strong emphasis on oral communication. By the conclusion of the course, students are prepared for Level 2 Spanish as they enter high school. Spanish meets three days per week.

## **FINE ARTS**

### **Art – 6th, 7th & 8th Grades**

This class is a studio class meeting three days a week. Students are introduced to famous and contemporary artists to inspire them as they imagine, plan and create objects of art in 2 and 3 dimensions. We will visit Grace Gallery and discover ways to talk about art.

Goals for this class are as follows: (1) students will develop ideas, plan and create projects using sketchbook assignments and class direction, (2) students will explore the whole creative process from beginning to end, (3) students will dialogue about composition and design elements within famous, contemporary and personal art work, and (4) students will experiment with different media and techniques being given opportunity to improve, explore and develop personal style.

### **Band - 6th Grade**

Students in 6th Grade Band will learn how to play their chosen instrument. During this first year of band, emphasis is placed on tone production, breath support, embouchure and reading and playing simple rhythms. Band meets three days a week.

### **Band - 7th & 8th Grade**

Students in the 7th and 8th Grade Band rehearse as a large group. Rehearsals focus on tone production, breath support, lyrical interpretation of concert music and proper phrasing of musical passages. Scale studies, rhythm exercises and exercises from the band method book enhance rehearsals. Band meets three days a week.

### **Chorus – 7th & 8th Grade**

Students in this combined chorus will learn the basics of vocal technique and choral singing through appropriate warm-ups, voice building exercises and choral literature. Eighth graders will be challenged by more difficult sight-reading and additional opportunities for performance as the year progresses. End of the year performances will reflect the skill and vocal maturity earned through attention to detail in all areas of vocal development. Chorus meets three days per week.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSES**

### **Logic - 8th Grade**

The purpose of logic is to equip students with the skills necessary for critical and independent thinking. Students are taught to evaluate information and arguments for validity and soundness, and primary importance is placed upon student recognition and understanding of informal fallacies. Students take logic one quarter during the rotation period.

### **Physical Education/Health - 6th, 7th & 8th Grade**

The students will be exposed to a variety of activities to work on skills and fitness. The areas of study will be rhythm and dance, tumbling, team sports, individual activities, strength and conditioning, recreational sports, outdoor adventure activities and physical fitness. Students will gain the knowledge of how to make healthy choices in all aspects of their lives. Topics include learning and taking responsibility for your health, physical activity and fitness, food and nutrition, growth and development, social health, tobacco, drugs and alcohol. 6th Grade PE meets three times per week; 7th and 8th Grade PE meets two times per week. Health meets one time per quarter.

### **Study Skills - 6th Grade**

The goal of this class is to help students become highly successful. The course will focus upon setting goals, organization, reading, test preparation, test taking skills, and study strategies that work for all classes. Students will take one quarter of Study Skills during the rotation period.

### **Technology - 6th Grade**

Students in 6th grade will be using wireless laptops for all projects. They will learn to manage files locally and on a network, and to demonstrate basic keyboarding and computer operational skills. Students use search strategies and navigational skills to locate information and assess its validity on the internet. They will explore Microsoft Office Word 2007 by creating a colorful tri-fold autobiographical brochure. Students learn how to present a power point successfully in front of a class by studying the effects that color, animation, simple text and graphics have on the demonstration. They learn how to capture the audience by adding action buttons, a quiz and using an electronic pointer.

### **Technology - 7th Grade**

Students improve speed and accuracy of keyboarding through short daily lessons. They learn the details of Microsoft Office 2007 Word, Power Point, and fundamentals of Excel spreadsheets by creating a variety of

projects. We will cover digital photography techniques including how to take great pictures, upload and edit them, and create multi-media projects using Windows Movie Maker. Students will also format a Biblical newsletter.

### **Technology - 8th Grade**

Students will continue to develop their typing skills. They will review and create projects in each of the Microsoft Office 2007 products including Publisher. They will create exciting multimedia projects with digital cameras. Students will also use an active board, write applications and create their own lessons – learning the ins and outs of Promethean boards. They will have fun creating, maintaining and responding to a wonderful classroom Wiki. The students will learn and be responsible for quarterly computer maintenance, learning how to do a system defragmentation and disc clean up.

### **Yearbook – 7th and 8th Grade**

The yearbook course has been designed to provide students with the journalism skills and the ability to apply those skills to the actual production of MBCA's yearbook. Units of study include teamwork, responsibility, brainstorming, content, coverage, production, reporting, writing, headlines, captions, editing, photography, typography, design, graphics, finances, yearbook campaign, fundraising, working with deadlines, advertising and distribution.

### **Reading and Writing Workshop - 6th, 7th & 8th Grade**

The students will study novels in depth with an emphasis on literary elements: point of view, style, setting, plot characterization, conflict, mood, and theme. As the students are analyzing the novels, they will also focus on strengthening their writing skills: content, organization, voice, vocabulary, fluency, and mechanics. 6th grade students will take the class two days a week, 7th grade students will take the course two quarters during the rotation period and 8th grade students will take the course one quarter during the rotation period.

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