



*Mt. Bethel Christian Academy
Middle School Curriculum Guide
2007 – 2008*

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LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts – 6th Grade

Sixth Grade Language Arts is a comprehensive program to teach students oral and written conversation 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 writing, 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 conversation 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

Integrated Math - 6th Grade

The 6th Grade Integrated 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 Integrated Math - 6th Grade

Advanced Integrated 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.



Integrated 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 Integrated 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

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 expression and triangles, rational equations, the Pythagorean Theorem, probability and trigonometric ratios.

Integrated Math - 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.

Integrated Algebra - 8th Grade

Integrated Algebra for 8th Grade emphasizes expressions and equations, linear functions, applying algebra to geometry, polynomials and nonlinear functions and concludes with radicals, rational functions and data analysis. The course will include 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. A study of radical expression and triangles, rational equations, the Pythagorean Theorem, probability and trigonometric functions will also be covered.

HISTORY

US History - 6th Grade

This course is a study of events from the pre-Civil War era through modern day history in America. Students will learn the causes and effects of various wars, movements and political policies that shaped



our nation. Preparation for research writing will allow students to further their knowledge in specific areas. This class will highlight group discussions and debate.

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. Therefore, geography is discussed and incorporated when it is germane to our historical investigation and student understanding.

Modern World Cultures/Georgia History - 8th Grade

This course is designed as two separate studies. Initially, students will survey philosophies, religion, politics and history of modern day cultures in order to help them understand why people live the way they do. The course concludes with an in-depth study of history of Georgia. Of significant importance is the social, economic and political development occurring in Georgia over the past two hundred years.

SCIENCE

Earth Science - 6th & 7th Grade

Earth Science focuses on the Earth as a planet, and on the basic concepts and theories of Earth Science and their relevance to everyday life. Students will examine the Earth's place in the solar system and, after a general introduction to Earth Science, will explore in more detail the materials of the Earth, its internal and external processes and its history. Students will look at the creation of Earth as posed by scientific theories and biblical creation. The course draws on the Bible, astronomy, biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics in its consideration of geological processes that can be observed directly or inferred through other evidence. This a combined course for 2007-2008.

Physical Science - 8th Grade

This course examines the physical sciences of chemistry and physics. The major topics are matter and energy, and how they can be changed for the good of man. Subjects covered include the structure of matter, the atom, motion, energy, simple machines, magnetism, waves, light, sound and energy resources.

BIBLE

Bible - 6th Grade

Sixth Grade Bible will be a survey of the Old Testament beginning with Genesis and continuing through the reign of King Solomon. Students will discover how to use the various features of their Bible and explore biblical themes related to Creation, The Fall, The Names of God, and Sin. This course will seek to train students that good theology always moves from the head (*orthodoxy* – “right knowing”) to the heart (*osteopathy* – “right being”) to the hand (*orthopraxy* – “right doing”). Bible meets two days per week.



Bible - 7th Grade

Seventh Grade Bible will be a survey of the Old Testament beginning with the Divided Kingdom, examining the exile and return from captivity, and setting the stage for the coming of Christ's ministry. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of the prophets and their ministry pre-exile, during the exile and post-exile. Finally, this course will seek to train students that good theology always moves from the head (*orthodoxy* – “right knowing”) to the heart (*orthopathy* – “right being”) to the hand (*orthopraxy* – “right doing”). Bible meets two days per week.

Bible - 8th Grade

Eighth Grade Bible will be a survey of the New Testament beginning with the letters and ministry of Paul, examining the letters from Hebrews to Jude, and exploring the features of the Revelation. The course will also explore theological concepts of Christology (doctrine of Christ), Ecclesiology (doctrine of the church), Pneumatology (doctrine of the Spirit), and Eschatology (doctrine of the last things). This course will seek to train students that good theology always moves from the head (*orthodoxy* – “right knowing”) to the heart (*orthopathy* – “right being”) to the hand (*orthopraxy* – “right doing”). 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

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. Students will take one quarter of Latin during the rotation period.

Latin - 8th Grade

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. Students will take one quarter of Latin in the rotation period.

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

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 and is divided into two section, woodwinds and brass/percussion.

Band - 7th & 8th Grade

Students in the 7th Grade Band meet in “like” classes while the 8th Grade rehearses 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 - 6th & 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. Sixth graders will receive additional enrichment activities and instruction that will help them develop a solid foundation of musical knowledge. Students in 8th Grade should have an increased maturity of singing that will be used to help teach the Sixth Grade students. Eighth graders will be challenged by more difficult sight-reading and additional opportunities for performance. 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.

Chorus - 7th Grade

Seventh grade singers will build upon the concepts which were learned in 6th Grade Chorus. Vocal warm-ups and exercises will become more difficult to further enhance technique as deemed appropriate by the mastery of the preceding material. Minor, major and chromatic scales will continue to be reinforced. Interval mastery will lead to sight reading in two or three harmony parts as appropriate for the level of development and the voice parts present in the group. Chorus meets three days per week.



ADDITIONAL COURSES

Logic - 8th Grade

The goal of Logic is to equip students with the rudimentary tool of thinking. Students will debate various sides of arguments and spend significant time studying the reasons why they believe what they believe. The study of deductive and inductive reasoning and fallacies is emphasized. Students will take one quarter of Logic in 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 and gymnastics, gym, team sports, individual activities, track and field, 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, personal health and consumer choices, growth and development, abstinence based sexual education, mental and emotional health, social health, tobacco, drugs and alcohol, communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, personal safety and injury prevention. PE/Health meets three days per week.

Study Skills - 6th Grade

The goal of this class is to help students become a 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 will demonstrate basic keyboarding and computer operation skills, assess the validity of information on websites, and use search strategies/navigational skills to locate information on approved online resources. In addition, students will create a tri-fold brochure, and write their autobiography in Microsoft Word. Inspiration will be used to form book webs and word webs. Students will develop a PowerPoint presentation as an entrepreneur. All students using MBCA Laptops must sign the school's Appropriate Use Policy. This course meets two days per week.

Technology - 7th Grade

Students have daily keyboarding practice by typing Bible verses and using home row key lessons. They learn advance Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and begin Excel spreadsheets. Students will gain an understanding of file management, computer maintenance, Internet search techniques and ethics. All students using MBCA Laptops must sign the school's Appropriate Use Policy. Students will take one quarter of Technology in the rotation period.

Technology/Media - 8th Grade

In this course, students will improving their typing skills as charted by speed and accuracy. They will learn file management, computer maintenance, Internet search techniques and ethics. Students will gain detailed knowledge of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel, create and design a web page and



participate in the school newspaper. All students using MBCA Laptops must sign the schools Appropriate Use Policy. Students will take one quarter of Technology or Media in the rotation period.

Test Preparation - 7th Grade

Seventh Grade students will be exposed to materials to improve their test-taking skills. This course is designed to cover types of tests—true/false, sentence-completion, matching, multiple-choice and essay, the ten basic test-taking strategies, and the special kinds of tests, such as achievement testing. Note taking, reading strategies and three weeks of math strategies will be covered in this course. Students will take one quarter of Test Preparation in the rotation period.

Writing Workshop - 6th, 7th & 8th Grade

This class is designed to help students strengthen their writing skill through practical application of the *Six Traits of Writing*, which include ideas and content, organization, voice, word choice, fluency and conventions. Students will be given opportunities to practice the Writing Process on a variety of assignments such as descriptive paragraphs, narratives, letters, reports, expository and persuasive essays. Students will take one quarter of Writing Workshop during the rotation period.

