



SAN ANTONIO  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Middle School

# Course Guide 2020-2021



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#### **Welcome to Middle School!**

The following guide outlines the required core and elective classes available to students during their time in middle school. While in middle school, students will take Bible, English, history, math, science, PE, Latin (6), logic (7), speech (8), along with elective choices. While engaging in these courses, intentionality is given to critical thinking, including the ability to analyze and synthesize information. As students are exposed to new requirements, it is expected and welcomed that they will struggle with the application of these skills. It is our intention to work through this process with your student knowing that the end result will be worth the time and effort.

#### **Homework Load**

Homework is an important part of the total educational process and is assigned as it is deemed necessary for learning. Students are expected to do all assignments on time. All assignments are expected to be the individual work of the student. Late assignments will be penalized following the homework policies found in the student handbook.

#### **Abbreviations Identified**

HSC = High School Credit\*

\*Students electing to take a HSC course are governed by High School policies for homework, late work and semester exams.

#### **Grading**

Grading percentages are included in this guide. Please note that these percentages at times may vary. Each class syllabus, given at the beginning of the year, will state the grading policies for that specific year and are to be seen as the standard.

#### **National Junior Honor Society**

Induction into the NJHS is based on grades during the first three quarters of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students must maintain a 95 average to be invited to apply for membership into the society. Those students that do not meet this requirement will be given another opportunity in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

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## **Bible Department**

The Middle School Bible Department is committed to teaching and training students the value of God's Holy Word. A focus is placed on skills to help students learn to read, evaluate, and understand Scripture for themselves. The ultimate goal is for students to grow in their personal relationship with the Lord.

### **Bible 6 – Christian Living** (Full Year)

#### **Homework Load: Light**

Students receive an overview of the Old and New Testaments. By studying the Scripture, students are encouraged to apply Biblical principles to their own lives. This course looks at the tenets of Christian living as they apply to the life of a middle school student.

#### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	40%
Daily Grades	20%
Journal	10%

### **Bible 7 – Old Testament** (Full Year)

#### **Homework Load: Light**

This course serves as a general overview of the Old Testament. From the Old Testament Scriptures, students will learn about the creation of the world, the fall of humankind, the story of Ancient Israel, and the centrality of Christ as Messiah. By the end of the year, students should be able to understand the purpose of the Old Testament in God's story, identify themes of a coming Messiah in the Old Testament, read the Scripture, and apply its meaning to their lives through personal devotion.

#### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	45%
Daily Grades	15%
Bible/Tablet Management	10%

### **Bible 8 – New Testament** (Full Year)

#### **Homework Load: Light**

This survey course will familiarize students with the content of the New Testament and give an overview of each New Testament book. The first semester focuses primarily on the life and ministry of Jesus and the book of Acts. The second semester looks at the life and letters of Paul, as well as the other New Testament letters. Throughout the course, special attention will be given to the practical application of Biblical truths.

#### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	50%
Summative Assessments	50%

## English Department

English classes are designed to encompass literature, vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills. Literature is taught from a Biblical worldview, with class discussion as an integral aspect of this instruction. Vocabulary Workshop provides a rigorous program to develop understanding and usage of new words. Grammar concepts are linked with specific skills to enhance writing. The Four Square method is used to facilitate organization in writing, and research skills are taught at each grade level. Independent reading benefits students in all subject areas, consequently each grade level requires students to participate in assigned reading throughout the year.

### English 6 (Full Year)

#### **Homework Load: Moderate**

In this course, the fundamentals of grammar are reinforced along with weekly engagement in vocabulary. Students will read short stories, poetry, and novels. The Four Square method of writing is introduced and implemented. Students will complete a research paper following proper MLA guidelines.

Along with weekly reading time requirements, students will read selected classical and contemporary literature.

#### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	25%
Summative Assessments	40%
Daily Work/Homework	35%

### English 6 Honors (Full Year)

#### **Homework Load: Moderate/Heavy**

**Prerequisite:** 93% or above in 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading & grammar and/or teacher recommendation

This course is designed to encompass grammar, writing, vocabulary and literature. Students will read short stories, poetry and novels during the year. In addition, sixth graders will complete a research paper using MLA guidelines. The honors class will move at a faster pace with the understanding that students who have selected this class have a foundation in grammar and basic writing skills. Honor students will be given more robust reading and writing requirements.

Along with weekly reading time requirements, students will read selected classical and contemporary literature.

#### **Grading:**

Formative/Summative Assessments	25%
Summative Assessments	40%
Daily grades/homework	35%

### English 7 (Full Year)

#### **Homework Load: Moderate**

Seventh grade English integrates grammar, writing, spelling, and vocabulary. Students will understand how to effectively incorporate ideas and content, organization, sentence fluency, word choice and voice in their writing. Vocabulary instruction will be emphasized throughout the year. All seventh-grade students will complete a research paper and follow proper MLA guidelines.

Along with weekly required reading time, students will read selected classical and contemporary literature.

#### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	45%
Daily/Homework/Tablet Management	25%

## **English 7 Honors** (Full Year)

### **Homework Load: Moderate/Heavy**

**Prerequisite:** 90% or above in 6<sup>th</sup> grade honors English or 93% or above in 6<sup>th</sup> grade English and teacher recommendation

Seventh grade Honors English is an accelerated course that integrates grammar, writing, spelling, vocabulary and reading comprehension. Students will understand how to effectively incorporate ideas and content, organization, sentence fluency, word choice and voice in their writing. Vocabulary instruction will be emphasized throughout the year. The honors class will move at a faster pace with the understanding that students who have selected this class have a foundation in grammar and basic writing skills. Honor students will be given more robust reading and writing requirements. They will be expected to work more independently, actively participate in the reading challenge, and participate in Socratic circle discussions.

Along with weekly required reading time, students will read selected classical and contemporary literature.

### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	45%
Homework	25%

## **English 8** (Full Year)

### **Homework Load: Moderate**

In this course, students are given a brief review of the rules of basic grammar and parts of speech, as well as developing vocabulary skills. The majority of the year is spent immersed in the writing process and in literature. Students will learn the steps to writing reflection papers, essays, and literature analysis. All eighth-grade students will complete a research paper and follow proper MLA guidelines.

Along with attention given to short stories and poetry, students will read selected classical and contemporary literature.

### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	25%
Summative Assessments	50%
Daily Homework	25%

## **English 8 Honors** (Full Year)

### **Homework Load: Moderate/Heavy**

**Prerequisite:** 90% or above in 7<sup>th</sup> grade honors English or 93% or above in 7<sup>th</sup> grade English and teacher recommendation

Students will explore literature and literary techniques from various periods and diverse cultures. The reading selections will include novels, poems, short stories, essays, articles, and plays. In addition, students will continue to develop an extensive vocabulary, improve reading and comprehension skills, explore a variety of genres, collaborate with peers, and write proficiently. The honors class will move at a faster pace with the understanding that students who have selected this class have a solid foundation in grammar and basic writing skills. The reading selections, writing, projects, and discussions are designed to encourage students to become more comprehensive readers, strong critical thinkers, problem solvers, and inspirational writers.

Along with attention given to short stories and poetry, students will read selected classical and contemporary literature.

### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	25%
Summative Assessments	50%
Daily Homework	25%

## **Logic 7** (Semester)

This one semester course will educate students on common errors in reasoning through the study of fallacies and propaganda. Students will also be exposed to logical reasoning techniques in various forms.

### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	45%
Daily Work	25%

## **Speech 8**

### **Homework Load: Moderate**

This course will provide students with the necessary skills needed in a variety of public situations and daily interactions within society. Students will learn the essential parts of a speech and the fundamentals of non-verbal communication. They will also develop good listening habits and evaluate the delivery, not just the message. Students will prepare informative, how-to, impromptu, personal narrative, persuasive speeches, and learn interviewing techniques. Furthermore, they will work individually and within small groups to solve problems to prepare for debates or forums. Upon completing the class, students will have developed public speaking skills necessary for a variety of audiences in preparation for high school and post-secondary opportunities.

### **Grading:**

Bible Verse	10%
Homework	20%
Quizzes	20%
Assessments/Speeches/Projects	50%



## Mathematics Department

The Mathematics Department seeks to recognize attributes of God, namely His order, precision, and immutability that are reflected in this science. Mathematics enables students to refine their God-given abilities to reason and think logically, and to develop perseverance and attention to detail. Problem-solving strategies developed in this science can be applied in many areas of life. Daily homework should be expected in math as the practice and review is deemed essential to student success.

### Math 6 (Full Year)

**Homework Load:** Moderate/Heavy

This course develops mental math, computational, and critical thinking skills. Students continue the study of whole numbers, decimals, and rational numbers (fractions), and begin using integers and percent. Also covered are ratios and rates, algebraic expressions and equations, inequalities, two variables, and displaying, analyzing, and summarizing data. Geometry is explored in angles, triangles, area, and volume.

**Grading:**

Formative/Summative assessments point system

### Math 7 (Full Year)

**Homework Load:** Moderate/Heavy

Students will review and extend concepts and skills learned in previous grades as well as learn new content that prepares them for more abstract concepts in algebra and geometry. Students gain proficiency in computation of both positive and negative rational numbers (whole numbers, integers, decimals, fractions) and use proportions to solve a variety of problems. New concepts include applying percent to mark-up and discount, applying proportionality to similar figures, indirect measurements, scale drawings, applying ratios to probability, solving two-step equations and inequalities, and graphing linear equations. Students will represent relations and functions using tables, graphs, and rules. Students will compute the areas and volumes of three-dimensional shapes represented in two-dimensional drawings.

**Grading:**

Formative/Summative assessments point system

*\*Incoming seventh grade students showing a high aptitude for math may be given the opportunity to take Math 8 (Pre-Algebra). Students should have maintained an overall average of 90% in Math 6 when determining whether they will be successful in this course. A student's work ethic, ERB scores, and teacher recommendation are also taken into consideration.*

### Math 8 (Pre-Algebra) (Full Year)

**Homework Load:** Moderate/Heavy

**Prerequisite:** 7<sup>th</sup> grade – See above statement\*

8<sup>th</sup> grade - Completion of Math 7

In pre-algebra, students prepare for the concepts of algebra and geometry. Students will explore linear functions through slope and y-intercept, writing equations, and determining proportionality. New concepts include angle relationships and parallel lines, transformations, and volume/surface area of 3D figures. Students will also review topics such as Pythagorean Theorem, similar figures, and concepts of real numbers.

**Grading:**

Formative/Summative assessments point system

## **Algebra I (HSC) (Full Year)**

### **Homework Load: Heavy**

**Prerequisite:** Maintained an overall average of 85% in Math 8 (Pre-algebra) and/or teacher recommendation. Any student that wishes to move from Math 7 into Algebra will be required to have 90% or above Math average and/or 90% or above in ERB testing (Math), and/or teacher recommendation.

The course will include, but not be limited to, the study of integers, relations, functions, solving one and two-step linear equations, graphing linear and parabolic functions, solving quadratic equations, exponential properties, solving absolute value equations, polynomial factoring, and simplifying radicals.

**Algebra I is a high school course and will follow the high school guidelines for homework, late work, and semester exams.**

### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	40%
Daily Grades	30%

## **Foundations in Personal Finance 7 (Semester)**

The concepts taught in class will help students understand how to take control of their money now and avoid huge money mistakes later. *Foundations* teaches students how to write and follow a budget, save money and pay cash for purchases, avoid the dangers of debt, explore a variety of career options, differentiate between saving and investing, identify types of insurance, explore global economics, be aware of marketing, and how to be a wise consumer.

### **Grading:**

Formative Assessment	30%
Summative Assessment	45%
Daily Work	25%

## **Foundations in Personal Finance 8 (Quarter)**

The concepts taught in class will help students understand how to take control of their money now and avoid huge money mistakes later. *Foundations* teaches students how to write and follow a budget, save money and pay cash for purchases, avoid the dangers of debt, explore a variety of career options, differentiate between saving and investing, identify types of insurance, explore global economics, be aware of marketing, and how to be a wise consumer.

This course is provided for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that were unable to attend during their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. The course will move at a faster pace, but still provide a robust experience for the student.

### **Grading:**

Formative Assessment	30%
Summative Assessment	45%
Daily Work	25%

## History Department

History classes at San Antonio Christian Middle School will examine and emphasize God's sovereign plan of redemption and fulfillment of His kingdom on earth. Students will learn and demonstrate an understanding of the importance of God's interaction with man, nature, social institutions, technology, and community. Extended consideration will be given to Biblical integration, political, international, economic, intellectual, and social themes. Students will make use of primary source documents, textbooks, project-based learning, cooperative learning, and researched-based learning to facilitate the understanding of course requirements. Students will establish higher-level thinking skills through essays, document-based questions, and critical reviews.

### **World History 6 (Full Year)**

#### **Homework Load: Light**

This course focuses on Creation through the Middle Ages. Seen clearly through a Christian perspective, students are guided through the history and geography of each region. By studying past events, students will see how good choices can reap great blessings, as well as the consequences of poor decisions. Through the study of world cultures, students will gain an understanding of the religious and cultural beliefs of others, and how Christians should respond. Students will see God working throughout history to fulfill His plan in the present and future.

#### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	40%
Daily Grades	20%
Journals	10%

### **Texas History 7 (Semester)**

#### **Homework Load: Moderate**

Students will explore the rich history of the Lone Star state and will be immersed in the history of Texas from its early foundations to the major events and significant historical figures that have impacted Texas. Emphasis is placed on the unique cultural influences from Spain, France, and Mexico that have shaped Texas and contributed to the pride and prestige Texas holds in the broader history of America.

*Utilizing the content of this discipline, students will begin learning how to analyze and synthesize material using document based questions. Critical thinking skills will be required as students gain a deeper understanding of not just what happens, but why it happens.*

#### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	35%
Summative Assessments	45%
Daily grades	20%

## **American Government 7** (Semester)

### **Homework Load: Moderate**

This course will focus on the principles and beliefs upon which the U.S. was founded, and on the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels. A significant focus of the course

is on the U.S. Constitution, its underlying principles and ideas, and the form of government it created.

Students analyze major concepts of republicanism, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights, and compare the U.S. system of government with other political systems. Students will analyze the impact of individuals, political parties, interest groups, and the media on the American political system, evaluate the importance of voluntary individual participation in a constitutional

republic, and analyze the rights guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution. Students will also evaluate the role government plays in fulfilling God's mandates in the Bible.

## **United States History 8** (Full Year)

### **Homework Load: Moderate**

In this course, students will learn the distinctiveness of American values and government while gaining an appreciation for our history, heritage, and how we have helped shape the world. This class will distinctly emphasize how God's sovereign plan has provided a means of redemption and fulfillment of His Kingdom in this country. Key areas of study will include Jamestown, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Federalism, States' Rights, the Bill of Rights, Westward Expansion, the Civil War, Reconstruction, Industrialization, the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II and a final look at the decades leading up to the present.

***Focus will be given during this year to the practice of discussion and debate skills. While students may be required to look at perspectives that are different from their own, the ultimate authority is always God's word.***

### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	50%
Daily Work	20%

## **United States History 8 Honors** (Full Year)

### **Homework Load: Moderate/Heavy**

**Prerequisite: 85 average in 7th grade History & 90 average in 7th grade Honors English or 93 average in on-level 7<sup>th</sup> grade English.**

This honors level course covers the same time periods and topics as On-Level History but requires students to utilize higher level analytical skills with more frequent, rigorous assignments. An emphasis is also placed on student-led discussion, research and project-based learning.

### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	50%
Daily Work	20%

## Science Department

Science opens a doorway to understanding the creative majesty of God. As students study science, they become more aware of the magnificence of the creation and the Creator. Through its study, our students sharpen their thinking process, stretch their imagination, and learn how to reason logically and deductively. Our students learn to thoroughly record and analyze observations and data.

### General Science 6 (Full Year)

#### **Homework Load: Light**

In this course, students will cover basic concepts in life sciences, earth sciences, astronomy, chemistry, environmental science, and physics. The course objectives include teaching the students how to increase their understanding of the character and wisdom of God as they learn about God's order and rule of creation. They will learn what is expected of them in their role as stewards of the earth, all that it is, and all that is upon it. The students will begin to develop the ability to question, to think critically/analytically, and to research on their own. The final objective of this course is to prepare the students for further study in the upper level science courses.

#### **Grading:**

Summative Assessments	40%
Lab Work	20%
Daily Grades	20%
Journal	20%

### Life Science 7 (Full Year)

#### **Homework Load: Light**

Life Science is designed as a survey class that touches on the major concepts of life science. These include natural science, biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, biotechnology, origins, classification, ecology, and human anatomy and physiology. This course is taught from a God-centered, Creationist perspective that will stress concepts that are significant to all Christians for developing a Biblical philosophy when approaching scientific study. In this class, students can expect to improve their note taking, reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students will also participate in experiments both in the lab and in the classroom to reinforce concepts learned.

#### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	10%
Summative Assessments	40%
Daily Grades	25%
Labs	25%

### Earth Science 8 (Full Year)

#### **Homework Load: Moderate**

Earth science takes a God-centered approach to earth science concepts by studying the evidence of a loving God's wondrous creation. Students will study science basics, including how faith and science work together, force and energy, the sun, the earth, the moon, the universe, the physical earth system, weather, the ocean, and fresh water.

Students will be presented with God as the sovereign Creator and Sustainer, and man and earth as His creation. They will be encouraged to develop an interest and appreciation for the earth and celestial objects, work to strengthen their ability in discerning truth from error, and the ability to question, think critically, and research ideas on their own.

#### **Grading:**

Summative Assessments	50%
Daily Grades	50%

## Foreign Language Department

### Latin 06

#### **Homework Load: Light to Moderate**

Students are introduced to the Latin language and basic Latin grammar tools, with the opportunity to practice them during daily activities. Emphasis will be on vocabulary and derivative work throughout the course.

#### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	40%
Daily Work	20%
Quarterly Project	10%

### Latin IA (HSC) (1.5 Years – ½ 7 & 8)

#### **Homework Load: Moderate to Heavy**

**Prerequisite:** 85% or above in English, 80% or above in all other classes

If after the first semester a student has a grade lower than 75%, they are subject to review and possible removal from this course.

Latin I students will learn grammar, vocabulary, and English derivatives. Students will also learn about ancient Roman culture, including food, dress, education and entertainment. Through the process of learning Latin, it has been proven that students see an increase in both SAT /ACT scores.

*Latin IA is a high school course and will follow the high school guidelines for homework, late work, and semester exams.*

#### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	35%
Summative Assessments	45%
Daily Work	20%

### Spanish I (HSC) (1.5 Years – ½ 7 & 8)

#### **Homework Load: Moderate to Heavy**

**Prerequisite:** 85% or above in English, 80% or above in all other classes

If after the first semester a student has a grade lower than 75%, they are subject to review and possible removal from this course.

This course will emphasize the beginning development of basic speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension skills. The students will study the present tense, the preterit tense, and the present progressive tense. The Spanish I student will learn to communicate in Spanish on a basic level through vocabulary and grammar study, reading, writing, and speaking. The students will learn about the Spanish speaking countries and their customs and expressions. The students will be able to carry on simple conversations and will be able to write simple sentences with correct sentence structure.

Spanish I is a high school course and will follow the high school guidelines for homework, midterms, and final exams.

#### **Grading:**

Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	45%
Homework or daily work	25%

## Physical Education Department

### Physical Education 6 (Full Year)

The focus of 6th grade physical education is to introduce students to a variety of sports and to develop motor skills and fitness in conjunction with Christian character development. Students learn about the rules, equipment, and skills necessary for sports such as volleyball, flag football, softball, track and field, and soccer. Students also participate in conditioning and agility exercises weekly and undergo fitness testing each quarter to assess their progress. Throughout the year, coaches conduct devotions that emphasize honoring God with our efforts, showing the love of Christ in competition, and appreciating the uniqueness of our gifts and abilities

**Grading:**

Skills & Assessment	25%
Participation	25%
Dressing Out	30%
Christian Conduct	20%

### Physical Education 7 (Full Year)

This course is designed to challenge students physically in a way that develops their aerobic fitness, increases their agility and strength, and prepares their bodies for more strenuous activities. Students will develop personal physical awareness, grow stronger mentally and physically, and learn spiritual applications to real world issues. Activities will include team sports, weight lifting, conditioning, and agility drills. Coaches will emphasize relying on God's strength and not our own along with the importance of giving our best. Throughout the year, coaches conduct devotions that emphasize honoring God with our efforts, showing the love of Christ in competition, and appreciating the uniqueness of our gifts and abilities.

**Grading:**

Skills & Assessment	25%
Participation	25%
Dressing Out	30%
Christian Conduct	20%

### Physical Education 8 (Full Year)

Physical education in 8<sup>th</sup> grade focuses on increasing strength, speed, and agility while continuing to build Christian character. Students will perform proper technique on Olympic lifts, practice proper running mechanics, and increase agility and explosiveness through speed drills and plyometrics. In addition to physical training, students will participate in team competitions once a week. Coaches will emphasize the value in working hard and committing all you do to the glory of the Lord. Throughout the year, coaches conduct devotions that emphasize honoring God with our efforts, showing the love of Christ in competition, and appreciating the uniqueness of our gifts and abilities.

**Grading:**

Skills & Assessment	25%
Participation	25%
Dressing Out	30%
Christian Conduct	20%



## Elective Course Offerings

Elective courses as outlined in this guide are subject to change based on scheduling, student interest, and teacher availability.

### Performing Arts

#### **Band 6 (Full Year)**

The SACS Middle School band is a Jazz based program. SACS offers beginning instruction on Trumpet, Trombone, and Alto Sax, but lessons for other instruments can be pursued outside of school hours. Other instruments necessary for Jazz Band, Pep Band, and Rock Band, such as piano, bass, drums, and guitar are added to the curriculum in 7th and 8th grade. All beginning band students will learn to play a wind instrument as this will empower students to become better all-around musicians.

#### **Band 7 & 8 (Full Year)**

7th and 8th grade band classes will build on the skills learned in the 6th grade class, and combine to form the Middle School Jazz Band. In addition to concerts on campus, students will have the opportunity to play at one or two college festivals in the spring. The 8th graders are also invited, but not required, to play with the High School Pep Band at high school football and basketball games.

#### **Intro to Theatre Arts 6 (Quarter)**

It is time for SACS students to discover their God-given talents and learn to shine. Throughout this 9-week interactive class, students will explore acting and vocal music. Students will learn to use their bodies, voices, movement, and more to communicate with an audience, and learn basic stage directions and theatre vocabulary. This class will also explore different types of singing styles through a variety of music and help students understand the basics of ensemble singing and performance. Students will gain self-confidence and learn life skills that will be utilized in the world outside of the stage.

\*All SACS middle school students are eligible to audition for the MS production.

#### **Theatre Arts 7&8 (Semester)**

In this class, students will continue to refine their dramatic skills to perform work that is more sophisticated by using various creative drama techniques to build ensemble, stimulate imagination, movement, and role-play with an emphasis on concentration, movement and stage presence. Students will be taught to direct their focus, intent, and motivation to create and sustain a character. Students will address plot, setting, and character in monologues focusing on realistic acting, commanding audience attention, and developing a stage presence. They will understand and follow stage directions and use proper techniques for body and voice control. Students will also learn and discuss the basic elements of drama to better understand and analyze characters and scripted material while also using drama and theatre vocabulary in class discussions and activities that will promote and reinforce students' literacy skills. Students will learn the history of Eastern, Medieval, and Elizabethan Theatre (specifically Shakespeare), to establish historical perspective and relevance. The basic elements of technical theatre (i.e. lights, sound, costumes, stage make-up, etc.) will also be introduced. In addition, the students will practice vocal music techniques and learn how to apply choreography to songs as well as text interpretation, facial and body expression, and performance skills through many genres of music. Students will exhibit and reinforce their skills through individual and group presentations, performances, and script and journal writing.

\*All SACS middle school students are eligible to audition for the MS production.



## **Visual Arts**

### **Art 6 (Quarter)**

Come and explore a lifelong interest or a newfound curiosity in the visual arts! Begin your artistic pursuits here as you learn more about the history of art and different avenues of art expression. Create art by applying the elements of art and principles of design in a positive, nurturing, and fun environment. Learn how to use a variety of art making materials and processes that include but are not limited to drawing, painting, and sculpting.

### **Art 7&8 (Quarter)**

#### **Painting**

Through the study of basic color theory, students develop a purpose behind the color choices made in their work, as well as prompting them to ponder the choices made by other artists. Working with watercolor and acrylic, the young artists develop a new set of skills to add to their working knowledge of two-dimensional pieces.

#### **Sculpture**

Sculpture assignments challenge students to apply what they have learned about the art elements to three-dimensional creations. Students work with clay, glass, wood, wire, textiles, paper, and other materials to build life-like forms as well as abstract works.

*Eighth Grade students will have the additional opportunity to learn to use a potter's wheel.*

#### **Ink**

During the study of ink, students experience writing with a calligrapher's pen and the difficulty of copying different fonts. A portion of this class will work on printmaking, using the student's own designs and linoleum images.

#### **Drawing**

While working with graphite, charcoal, ink, colored pencil, conte crayon, and pastel, students will refine their ability to apply the rules of perspective in drawing. Students will work from photographs, still life arrangements, and their imaginations to create life-like compositions.

## **General Electives**

### **Animal Care and Preservation** (Quarter)

This course introduces students to a variety of animals including reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. In addition to caring for the animals in the classroom, students will research, create brochures and participate in informational style activities that will enhance their knowledge of the animals. The class will also help local animal rescue facilities through classroom activities designed assist animal rescue efforts.

*This is a hands-on class as students work with and care for the animals each day. Students will be required to follow all guidelines for their safety and for the safety of the animals in our charge.*

### **Baseball** (Quarter)

This course will examine baseball's illustrious history, with emphasis on legendary players, historical accomplishments, and statistical analysis and evaluation of players. By the end of the course, students will gain a greater appreciation for the game of baseball and the lessons God can teach us.

### **Computers 6** (Quarter)

This course is designed to develop appropriate keyboarding habits and basic word processing skills. Students learn the fundamentals of Windows 10 for the desktop and tablet. They obtain knowledge of and develop skills in word processing, presentations, and collaboration through the fundamentals of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Office 365.

### **Computers 7/8** (Quarter)

This course is designed to reinforce appropriate keyboarding habits and basic word processing skills enabling students to use the computer as a practical tool in their education process. Students review essential skills and then acquire a deeper understanding of the use of Windows 10 and Microsoft Office for the desktop and tablet. Students obtain knowledge of and develop skills in word processing, presentations, and collaboration through the fundamentals of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Office 365. Students will learn how to properly format a research paper, use their email and calendar effectively, and create many professional documents using a variety of tools available to them through Microsoft Office. This course exposes students to practical examples of the computer as a useful tool by using proper procedures to create documents suitable for course work, professional purposes, and personal use.

### **Drones (UAV)** (Quarter)

This course will be an introduction to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Drone) operation. It will include hands-on UAV operation within the National Airspace Structure, FAA rules and regulations, basic aerodynamics, meteorology, and related aviation safety. Course objectives include successful and safe operation of an UAV, and the ability to conduct safe flight conditions as determined by airspace regulations and weather limitations.

**(Not available for 2020-2021)**

### **The Escape Room** (Semester)

This course is a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage a student's imagination, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Students will envision, design, engineer, construct and test their ideas and prototypes in an Escape Room format. Once the Escape Room experience is completed, students will invite others to enter the creation and try to escape within the allotted time. There will be a \$25.00 fee per student. Students not appropriately engaging in the class may be re-assigned.

*Application is required. Space will be limited and will be offered to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students first. Students will be required to participate in all aspects of the Escape Room curriculum.*

### **Math Lab (6, 7, 8)**

Math Lab is designed for students to review concepts learned each day by providing increased opportunities for review, practice, and application. This class is not a study hall and students will be required to stay engaged. While this course is an elective choice, the administration may add/remove students from this elective based on academic performance and willingness to appropriately participate. It is highly encouraged that if a student is asked to select this elective, that recommendation is followed. Students that show an increased understanding of mathematical concepts and are averaging math test scores above an 85 may be asked to withdraw from this elective in order to assess if the student can retain/increase this academic level without such direct intervention. The final decision on a student moving out of Math Lab will be made by the administration.

**(Not available for 7 Pre-Algebra/8 Algebra)**

### **Mechanics of Writing (Quarter)**

This course is designed to support and enhance good writing. Students will receive focused practice to encourage writing mastery as they study the elements of writing a story, writing to inform, and writing an argument. In the process, students will learn about determining facts/opinion/bias, sequencing, outlining, taking notes, comparing themes, considering point of view, examining cause and effect and much more. Student's daily classwork may include the following: written and oral lessons and presentations, reading materials from various subjects and genres, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation practice, class and group collaboration discussion and MLA format requirements.

### **Missions, Ministry and Discipleship (Quarter)**

An opportunity to engage in discipleship training, ministry opportunities on campus and mission opportunities in our community.

### **Robotics (Quarter)**

This course is designed to help students enhance their creative problem solving skills and enable them to become the critical thinkers and creators of the future. Using the Lego Mindstorms educational kits, students can build introductory level robots that move and play games. Students will then advance to utilizing the EV3 Mindstorms kits to build more advanced robots that move, grab, and play music and games. Students will solve problems along the way that will enable them to develop critical thinking skills, grow their ideas, and work through problems that challenge them.

### **Science Explorations (6 only) (Quarter)**

Students will engage in research, complete lab activities, and generate projects focused on various scientific "stops" on a virtual road trip across the USA. Each stop on the trip will feature some natural wonder, an engineering or architectural marvel, or a historical or archeological point of interest. Throughout the road trip, students will maintain a travel journal recording details, facts, oddities, and scientific data observed. Student generated projects will summarize what was learned while visiting the point of interest. In addition, each stop will feature a Biblical application component, which will deepen students' appreciation for God's word, His amazingly designed creation, and the wisdom that He affords humanity to pursue scientific endeavors.

### **Strategic Board Games (Quarter)**

This elective provides an opportunity to practice decision-making skills, hone cause and effect strategies and increase situational awareness by engaging in strategic board games. This is not Candy Land! Students will compete in true-to-life scenarios that require higher level thinking as well as collaboration with others to outwit opponents.

After engaging in these scenarios, students will work in cooperation with classmates to create a strategic board game. This game will be archived in the SACS library for future Lions to enjoy.

### **Study Hall (8 only) (Quarter)**

Study Hall is a non-academic elective that provides an opportunity for students to individually work on their homework, or prepare for upcoming tests or projects. It is important to note that this elective requires the individual student to manage his or her time and himself or herself.

*Students that cannot effectively use the study hall elective will be placed in another elective choice.*