



Eastside Christian School

ECS CURRICULUM GUIDE

MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Classroom Structure: 7 class periods of 45 – 55 minutes daily (Bible, Language, History, Math, Science, plus two Elective/Exploration classes)

Student/Teacher Ratio: *22:1

*Middle school core classes typically range from 12 to 23 students. Some middle school teachers are able to utilize an allocation of instructional assistant time to further enhance the programming.

School Day 8:40 am – 3:15 pm
Lunch 35 minutes

LANGUAGE ARTS

Middle School

6th GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS classes cover the following areas of study:

LITERATURE – Prentice Hall Anthology, *Timeless Voices*, *Timeless Themes*

This textbook is a collection of classic and contemporary literature. It encompasses a wide variety of literary forms, including short stories, journals, letters, essays, personal histories, speeches, media accounts, drama, poetry, and folk literature.

Three novels are also incorporated into the literature curriculum at the sixth grade level:

The Bronze Bow
Johnny Tremain
The Giver

by Elizabeth George Speare
by Esther Forbes
by Lois Lowry

SPELLING AND VOCABULARY – Wordly Wise 3000

This text/workbook is made up of twenty lessons, each consisting of fifteen words. Both spelling and word meaning will be mastered by students. Engaging classroom exercises and games will give students practice in finding meanings, using the correct form of words, applying meanings, identifying word relationships, and interpreting a narrative that utilizes all fifteen words. A clarification section provides additional instruction in word roots, frequently confused words, and comparisons of word meanings

GRAMMAR – Houghton Mifflin English

The grammar, usage, and mechanics sections of this textbook will be utilized for sixth grade study. Instruction and practice sections will examine the following elements of grammar: the sentence, nouns, verbs, modifiers, capitalization and punctuation, pronouns, and prepositional phrases. Students will be applying the skills they have learned during class activities and projects.

WRITING – 6 Traits

Daily 6-Trait Writing contains 25 weeks of mini-lessons divided into five units. Each unit provides five weeks of scaffolded instruction focused on one of the following traits: Ideas, Organization, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Voice. Each week of *Daily 6-Trait Writing* focuses on a specific skill within the primary trait, as well as one Convention skill. The weeks follow a consistent five-day format, making *Daily 6-Trait Writing* easy to use. Students will focus on

developing their writing skills as they learn to write: to express an opinion, to persuade, to compare and contrast, research papers, personal narratives, and stories.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS classes use Prentice Hall's *Writing Coach* (online) and *Literature Anthologies* textbooks, as well Prestwick House's *Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots* program. Students also read two assigned novels. After successfully completing these courses, students should be better able to:

1. **Read and comprehend texts of increasing complexity.** Students will be reading, discussing, and responding to selections from our **literature** and history textbooks; assigned novels, articles, and other materials. To aid students in developing their writing and reading comprehension skills, they will also be doing some **vocabulary** work throughout the year.
2. **Speak and listen effectively.** Students will have many opportunities to express themselves, listen carefully to the ideas of others, integrate information from oral, visual, and media sources, and evaluate what they hear. They will use technology, media, and visual displays strategically to communicate ideas and information through individual and group presentations.
3. **Think critically.** Through wide and deep reading of literature and literary nonfiction, students will gain a reservoir of literary and cultural knowledge, which they will use to evaluate complicated arguments and to comprehend and react to complex texts.
4. **Write effectively and powerfully for a variety of purposes and audiences.** Students will be doing a wide variety of writing tasks in several different **genres**, which may include nonfiction narratives, fiction narratives, poetry, descriptive writing, expository writing, persuasive (argumentative) writing, responses to literature, and workplace writing.
5. As they practice the stages of the **writing process**, students will also learn how to apply the traits (characteristics) of good writing as we use the **6+1 Traits Writing** model to teach and assess the key qualities that define strong writing. This model provides a common language for teachers and students to communicate about the characteristics of writing and establishes a clear vision of what good writing looks like. These traits are:
 - a. **Ideas**, the main message
 - b. **Organization**, the internal structure of the piece
 - c. **Voice**, the personal tone and flavor of the author's message
 - d. **Word Choice**, the vocabulary a writer chooses to convey meaning
 - e. **Sentence Fluency**, the rhythm and flow of the language
 - f. **Conventions**, the mechanical correctness
 - g. **Presentation**, how the writing actually looks on the page

MATH

Middle School

Saxon Pre-Algebra: We offer Saxon Courses 2 and 3 as our Pre-Algebra options. These courses cover all topics normally taught in pre-algebra as well as introductions to geometry and discrete mathematics (used in engineering and computer sciences). Through these two courses, students deepen their understanding of pre-algebraic topics. Saxon Courses 2 and 3 also provide instruction and enrichment on such topics as compressions, approximating roots, polynomials, and graphing.

Saxon Algebra I covers all topics in a first-year algebra course, from proofs, statistics, and probability to algebra-based real-world problems. With Algebra I, students begin developing the more complex understanding required for advanced mathematics.

Geometry covers all topics appropriate for a full-year, high school-level math class.

Algebra II: Saxon Algebra II covers the essential topics for an Algebra II course and reviews essentials from Algebra I. The student is encouraged to use supplementary materials with the text.

BIBLE and CHAPEL

Middle School

6th Grade Text: *To the Ends of the Earth*

This text provides an in-depth study of The Books of Acts for middle/junior high school students. Developed to engage students with the biblical text while directing them toward personal application of the command to take the gospel "to the ends of the earth." Contains helpful instructional aids and answers for student exercises. Students will end the course with a greater knowledge of and appreciation for the exciting birth and early years of the church.

7th/8th Grade Text: *Preparing for a Life of Ministry*

Seventh and eighth grade students will learn the basic principles and tools of inductive Bible study and become equipped in basic apologetics through addressing the most common issues/questions brought against the Bible and the Christian faith. Students will learn about their own spiritual gifts and how God desires to use them in ministering to others while experiencing the joy of service. An emphasis of the class will be discussion, projects, and activities centered on preparing to live actively for Jesus Christ.

Chapel program includes weekly worship, exposure to Christian beliefs, and a focus on monthly character traits. Monthly participation in our ACTS program provides additional understanding of the character traits and a wonderful multi-age team-building experience. Seventh and eighth grade students serve as ACTS TEAM leaders, providing instruction to their multi-age group.

Middle school students perform required service hours. Students also participate in team- building retreats and an annual mission trip.

SCIENCE

Middle School

6th Grade Science: Purposeful Design curriculum written by a division of ACSI

In this extension of the elementary curriculum, students continue to develop a firm understanding of four key areas of scientific investigation: Life Science, Physical Science, Earth and Space Science, and Human Body.

Life Science: Classification of Organisms, Cell Processes, Heredity and Genetics

Physical Science: Periodic Table of the Elements, States of Matter, Fluids, Why Things Move

Earth and Space Science: Oceans in Motion, Rock Record, Violent Motions, Astronomy

Human Body: Interaction of Systems, Body Stewardship

7th and 8th Grade Science

Curriculum is presented on a rotation so that students will receive all of the education before graduating. We cover Health plus 3 of the following each year.

Cycle One:

Chemical Interactions: Students discover principles of chemistry and states of matter (FOSS Kit)

Light: Students explore and learn how to manipulate light, vision, perception (STC kit)

Force and Motion: Distance, speed, acceleration, force, gravity, and momentum are explored through hands-on labs in the classroom (FOSS kit)

Cycle Two:

Diversity of Life (FOSS kit) A biology unit where students learn about God's creations from microscopic creatures to more complex animals

Weather and Water (FOSS kit) A geology unit that focuses on Earth's uniqueness with liquid water and how weather is created, predicted, and observed

Working with Motors and Simple Machines (STC kit) A physics course that focuses on simple machines and motors. Students use K'NEX® to help them observe the difference that a simple machine can make on a workload.

Total Health: Talking About Life's Changes

Students in 7th Grade will cover the following chapters:

- The Power of Choice
- Human Biology
- Who Am I?
- Let's Talk About Success
- Building Strong Friendships

Students in 8th Grade will cover the following chapters:

- Nutrition: Entering the Food Zone
- Fitness and Exercise
- Diseases: The Body Under Attack
- The 7 Habits of Highly Popular Teens
- Living the Supernatural High

HISTORY

Middle School

6th - New World History and Geography (A Beka)

Sixth grade curriculum focuses on the history and geography of both North and South America and the West Indies. The United States history portion will touch on colonization and then focus on the Revolutionary War, the creation and meaning of our constitutional government system, and westward expansion. Students will be introduced to the Civil War. Inventors that helped build our nation's industry will also be researched. The implications that colonization and expansion have on the Native Americans will be examined throughout.

Geography studies will include: geographic terms, cardinal and intermediate directions, degrees on a compass, projections, reading scale, using a map grid, parallels of latitude, meridians of longitude, time zones, political/ physical/road/elevation/population/economic/historical/climate zones/natural resources/industry maps (to name just a few). Students will develop skills in the use of atlases, almanacs, encyclopedias, and web resources. Current events will be discussed on a regular basis with sensitivity to parental guidance on controversial topics. Students will be presented with a basic study of our nation and the world's economic systems.

The textbook will be supplemented with a wide variety of teacher resources.

7th/8th Grade World History

In this class we will study the history the world from Creation to the Age of Exploration. Special emphasis will be given to looking for God's hand in the events of world history. We will examine reasons for studying history and how to think like a historian. We will learn about physical geography and how it influences the way people live and study. We will see how learning about a people's economic system can

help us to understand their priorities, values, and governmental policies. We will explore what it means to be a good citizen as we seek to carry out the Great Commission. Current and historical issues will be discussed from a biblical perspective as we try to see connections between the events of the past and issues facing our nation and the world today. Throughout the year, students will complete a number of activities and projects to help them to develop strong skills in writing, reading, oral communication, and critical thinking. The primary resources used in this class include **Discovering Our Past: A History of the World** (McGraw-Hill's online textbook and related web tools), **The Holy Bible, Drive Thru History** (a Christian DVD series by ColdWater Media), **Life in the Middle Ages** and **The Renaissance for Students** (DVD series by the Library Video Company), **Junior Scholastic Magazine**, **CNN 10** (a daily news broadcast for students), and biographical videos on the life and work of John Wycliffe, Jon Huss, St. Francis of Assisi, Martin Luther, and Jim and Elisabeth Elliot. Where necessary and appropriate, we will supplement our textbook with articles and books from Christian writers.

Note: *World History and Washington State/U.S. History are taught in alternating years.*

7th/8th Grade Washington State/United States History

This course begins with the study of Washington State History, including the important contributions made by missionaries and other Christians in the Pacific Northwest and by the native tribes as well. We will examine our nation's founding documents and the basic workings of our federal and state governments, which will include a tour of our state capitol. We will later shift our focus to United States history, beginning with the period of growth and expansion in the early 19th century. Next, we'll study the events leading to the American Civil War, the war itself, and the period of Reconstruction. We will then move on to the Age of Industry, the great wave of immigration, and America's emergence as a world power. We will also examine the various social issues facing the nation during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including child labor and the living conditions in America's growing cities. Special emphasis will be given to looking for God's hand in the events of American history. We also try to see connections between the events of the past and issues facing our nation today. Current and historical issues will be discussed from a biblical perspective. Throughout the year, students will complete a number of activities and projects to help them to develop strong skills in writing, reading, oral communication, and critical thinking. The primary resources used in this class include **Our Northwest Heritage** (published by Sound Summit Books), **Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States** (McGraw-Hill's online textbook and related web tools), **Junior Scholastic Magazine**, **CNN 10** (a daily news broadcast for students), **United States History: Origins to 2000** (DVD series by the Library Video Company), and **The Civil War: A Film by Ken Burns** (DVD series by PBS).

Note: *World History and Washington State/U.S. History are taught in alternating years and are integrated with the Language Arts classes.*