

JUNIOR HIGH Course Descriptions

* = required course

Bible: Students are required to take Bible each year.** Life of Christ: Grade 7**Annual*

This is an introduction to the life and teachings of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. We begin the year with a review of the events and promises of the Old Testament and explain how they foreshadow the coming of Jesus. We then delve into a study of the historical situation into which Jesus was born to better understand the events of the gospels; we also take some time to learn Israel's geography. We spend the bulk of the year going through the Gospel of Luke verse-by-verse in an attempt to understand 1) who Jesus claimed to be; 2) what He accomplished through His life, death, and resurrection; and 3) what it means to follow Christ. Special attention is given to the question: "What does it mean to be a Christian?" (i.e. What should we believe? What should our lives look like?) To augment our study in Luke, we also spend the year going through the student devotional *Checklist for Life for Teens* which is a topical exploration of many issues relevant to the lives of 7th graders.

** Old Testament Survey: Grade 8**Annual*

This is a survey course of the Old Testament. It provides a timeline of events pertaining to the Jewish nation and their special place chosen by God. Emphasis will be made in the areas of creation, the patriarchs, the law, the kings and the prophets so as to show how it is that this nation was the vessel carrying God's plan of redemption to mankind.

English: Students are required to take English each year.** JH English 7: Grade 7**Annual*

The seventh-grade English curriculum emphasizes the study of grammar, including the eight parts of speech, mechanics of capitalization and punctuation, and techniques of outlining, summarizing and letter writing. Vocabulary development constitutes another part of the curriculum with attention paid to both spelling and definitions. Literature is taught by means of both silent and oral reading of short stories, novels, and non-fiction works. Narrative and creative writing gives practical application to the above skills while developing the knowledge and imagination of the student.

** JH English 8: Grade 8**Annual*

English 8 is geared to give students a background in grammar, vocabulary, literature, and composition. An understanding of the specifics of standard English grammar is essential to its application in all written and verbal communications. Although emphasis is given to grammar, much time is also devoted to the application of grammar in writing narrative and expository essays; they also write creative fiction. The literature curriculum includes short stories, poetry, plays, novels, and biographies from American and English authors. Basic terminology of literary analysis and structure of the various genres is taught.

Math: Students are required to take math each year. Math is offered in two tracks, regular and advanced. The regular courses are Pre-Algebra Part 1 and Pre-Algebra Part 2. The advanced courses are Pre-Algebra and JH Algebra 1. Permission of the department is required for those students enrolling in the advanced track. Math ability is assessed through the student's consistent performance on standardized tests. The student's math achievement is based on standardized tests, grades in fifth and sixth grade math, study skills, teacher recommendations, and entrance test scores.

Pre-Algebra Part 1: Grade 7

Annual

Pre-Algebra part 1 is designed to solidify basic computation in mathematics while introducing concepts necessary for success in high school Algebra 1. Topics include order of operations, fractions, decimals, geometric shapes, integers, and basic equations. Upon the successful completion of Pre-Algebra part 1, students must enroll in Pre-Algebra part 2 as 8th graders.

Pre-Algebra Part 2: Grade 8

Annual

Pre-Algebra part 2 emphasizes the conceptual understanding of math skills necessary in high school Algebra 1. Topics include integers, solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing linear and quadratic functions, and simplifying polynomials. This course expands the students' knowledge of the number system with an introduction to irrational numbers. Pre-Algebra part 2 also exposes students to geometric concepts, including volume and surface area. This course continues to develop skills needed to effectively communicate math by verbal and written response. Students successfully completing Pre-Algebra part 2 will continue to Algebra 1 or Basic Algebra 1 as 9th graders.

Pre-Algebra: Grade 7

Annual

Pre-Algebra 7 is a course designed for the self-motivated student who has verifiable math ability and has demonstrated observable math achievement. The fundamental purpose of the course is to prepare students for the sometimes abstract concepts they may encounter in Algebra I. Much of the course is directed toward the development of critical thinking skills necessary for a greater conceptual understanding of mathematics. Students will take an algebraic approach to the study of integers, rational numbers, linear graphs, geometry, and statistics. A strong foundation in basic computational skills is assumed. Students are evaluated at the end of the year for possible enrollment in Algebra I in 8th grade with factors such as grades, personal motivation, homework completion and quality, and enthusiasm for mathematics being incorporated into the decision.

Department approval required for enrollment.

Junior High Algebra 1: Grades 7, 8

Annual

Junior High Algebra 1 is a high school course for those students who have successfully completed Pre-Algebra and have the maturity and motivation required for this class. The course begins with a review of pre-algebra concepts. Understanding and demonstrating the logical progression of steps in each algebraic concept is stressed. Topics covered include 1) solving and graphing equations, inequalities and functions; 2) linear, absolute value, exponential, quadratic, radical, and rational equations; 3) solving ratios and proportions; 4) simplifying polynomials and factoring; 5) simplifying exponents and using exponential growth and decay; and 6) data analysis. Students use the TI-83 graphics calculator to explore and discover math concepts. Students connect mathematics to real world situations and explain concepts through written

response. Students successfully completing Junior High Algebra 1 should enroll in Geometry for their next math class; they may not enroll in High School Algebra 1. The following year, most students will enroll in Algebra 2 Honors. The grade earned in this course is included in the student's high school GPA. **Department approval required for enrollment.**

Science: Students are required to take science each year.

** Life Science: Grade 7*

Annual

Course content includes structure and function of the cell, viruses and bacteria, protozoa, invertebrate animals, phylum, and vertebrate animals. Subject matter is covered in depth with many supporting activities. Students are involved in making models, doing research, writing lab reports, and learning how to use a microscope during labs. Field trips are also part of the learning experience.

** Earth and Space Science: Grade 8*

Annual

Earth Science is a study of the planet Earth and the forces which act upon it. The course is structured along traditional scientific thinking. However, contemporary scientific evidence is constantly cited which demonstrates how God is unquestionably the Creator of both planet Earth and the universe. The class encourages students to think and question in a creative, analytical manner. As such, less emphasis is put upon the quantity of information covered throughout the year. A great emphasis is put upon guiding the students to form conclusions based upon what they already know and have just learned. In addition, special emphasis is placed upon integrating science across the curriculum. This means that mathematics and communication (i.e., reading and especially writing) are consistently integrated within each lesson. This course also interrelates with subjects such as geography and economics. Earth Science students gain knowledge and skills that they will use in their high school science courses.

Social Studies: Students are required to take social studies each year.

** Ancient History: Grade 7*

Annual

Ancient History presents history in its geographic setting. In studying the history of the world, a Christian perspective of ancient and related current events is surveyed to incorporate God's Word to better equip each student for decision making in our ever-changing world.

** Early American History: Grade 8*

Annual

The chief aim of Early American History is to develop in the student a general understanding of the unfolding of American history from the late 15th century through the Civil War and to acquaint the student with the major forces which have shaped history. Other important aims are to develop historical sense, develop sophisticated political and economic understanding, broaden moral and ethical perspectives, sharpen powers of thought and expression, and introduce some of the great figures and events of American history. The course will reveal how Christianity has

played a major role throughout all of American history. Students in this course will participate in the National History Day program.

Fine Arts: One music performance course (band, choir, handbells, or strings) must be taken in either seventh or eighth grade, and one art course must be taken in either seventh or eighth grade. Junior High students are not required to have any experience in fine arts except where noted.

JH Art: Grades 7 or 8

Quarter

This course introduces students to basic art and design fundamentals, and it is a place to create fun and enjoyable art projects. The course introduces basic art elements and principles used in two and three dimensional design. Students focus on learning basic drawing techniques such as free-hand drawing; they also develop experience with the drawing skills used by designers and architects. Students also have the opportunity to explore three dimensional projects such as macramé, papier mache, sculpture, and crafts.

Junior High Choir: Grades 7 & 8

Annual

The Junior High Choir is open to all 7th and 8th grade students. Students learn the foundations of singing, including correct posture, breathing, and vocal warm-up techniques. Basic music theory and music reading presented with various sight reading method books. Many different music styles are performed, including hymns, contemporary Christian, and traditional chorale music. The Junior High Choir performs at least two times annually: Christmas Choral Concert, and Spring Choral Concert; **these performances are mandatory.** Other mandatory performances may occur throughout the year. The course may be taken multiple years.

Women's Chorale: Grade 8

Annual

The Women's Chorale consists of 8th- 12th grade females singing primarily SSA (1st & 2nd soprano and alto) music. **Admission to the course is by audition the spring prior to the class.** This group performs primarily SSA (Soprano, Second Soprano and Alto) music of various styles including hymns, contemporary Christian, and traditional chorale music. The foundations of singing including correct posture, breathing and vocal warm-up techniques are reviewed. Intermediate music theory and music reading is also included through various sight reading method books. Three main performances are held throughout the year: Children's Hospital Tree Lighting Festival, Christmas Choral Concert, and Spring Choral Concert; **these performances are mandatory.** Other mandatory performances may occur throughout the year.

String Ensemble: Grades 7 & 8

Annual

String Ensemble is a training and performing ensemble and instrumental class emphasizing the analysis, preparation, interpretation, and presentation of secular and sacred string literature. Study is given to many styles of music literature. The ensemble performs 3-4 times per year. The course may be taken multiple years.

String Orchestra: Grades 7 & 8

Annual

The String Orchestra is a performing group consisting of CVCA's most advanced string players. Most students in this ensemble take private lessons outside of CVCA. Many of these students

perform in local orchestras, such as the Akron and Cleveland Youth Symphonies. This group gives many performances each year and has toured internationally. The course may be taken multiple years. **Membership in the CVCA String Orchestra is by director permission only.**

Beginning Band Methods: Grades 7 & 8

Annual

Beginning Band Methods is a course designed for 7-11 grade students wishing to learn a band instrument for the first time or for students who already play a band instrument but need more individual attention than is possible in a full band class. The course is also open to experienced band students who wish to change to a different instrument. The goal of the course is for each student to eventually be placed into the appropriate Junior High or Senior High band at CVCA. Instrumental music experience is not required. Students will be given direction from the instructor in choosing an instrument appropriate for their physical make up. Students participating in the course will be required to obtain their own instrument, with the exception of students who choose some of the low brass and woodwind instruments, which will be provided by CVCA.

JH Concert Band: Grades 7&8

Annual

Junior High Band is an intermediate level band. **Students are expected to have prior musical experience, either through elementary band or private lessons.** The course is designed to build upon skills students have already developed as well as introduce new skills. Students explore a variety of musical styles including compositions written specifically for other genres. The music is generally classical, sacred, or “pop.” Students will also study basic music theory, musical terminology, and conducting. The group performs several concerts throughout the school year. **All performances are mandatory.**

JH Handbells: Grades 7 & 8

Annual

The Junior High Handbell Choir is a group giving emphasis to musical styles, interpretation, individual skills, technical development, and varied repertoire. The course is open to all Junior High students, but an audition may be required during the first week of school to fill available positions. **Students must have experience in reading music in both treble and bass clefs.** Previous handbell or piano experience is preferred, but not required. The course meets two days per week. The course may be taken multiple years. The group performs several times per year and **all performances are mandatory.**

Intermediate Handbells: Grade 8

Annual

Intermediate Handbell Choir is for students who have either played in Junior High Handbell Choir or who display a high level of music and rhythm reading ability. This is a performing group that plays for chapels, at CVCA concerts, and also at area Christian schools. **All performances are mandatory. Membership is by director permission.** The course meets three days per week.

*Audio Technology: Grade 8**Annual*

The purpose of Audio Technology is for students to learn how to effectively operate a sound system in a variety of settings. This will involve both classroom instruction as well as practical experience outside of the classroom. Students will be expected to fulfill a number of service hours each quarter. Operating the sound system at CVCA during our weekly chapel services is just one example of how students may fulfill these service requirements. **Membership is by instructor approval.**

Foreign Languages: Junior High students must take two foreign language courses by the end of eighth grade. Students are encouraged to take nine-week courses in languages they have not studied previously. Eighth grade students are permitted to enroll in high school foreign language courses with instructor approval; the grades earned in high school courses are included in students' high school GPAs.

*JH French**Quarter*

Junior High French is an introductory program which explores a variety of topics in French, emphasizing categories of words and simple sentences. Students learn vocabulary; they listen to stories, learn dialogs, sing songs and play games in the language. Students also learn about and experience the history and culture of France, including holiday customs and food.

*JH German**Quarter*

Junior High German is designed to give students an introduction to the culture and language of German speaking people. The focus is on learning basic pronunciation, common courtesies, numbers, colors, classroom objects and other simple phrases. The emphasis is on culture, holidays and traditions, rather than on grammatical structure. We do explore the similarities to English, which in its origin is a Germanic Language. Students are given a very brief overview of Germany's development since the end of World War II, a divided Germany, and reunification. Student's select one area of interest to research and share this with the class.

*JH Latin**Quarter*

Junior High Latin is an introductory course with three major components: (1) Basic grammar (presented in a primarily conversational format) (2) Ancient Roman mythology (3) Vocabulary (learned in a conversational or story form, with written exercises for additional practice). Emphasis is given to the Latin derivatives of many English words. Roman history and culture are presented through a Christian world view in a very interesting and readable format, with many detailed illustrations that bring the Latin culture to life. The myths of ancient Rome are stories to be enjoyed, yet with scripturally-informed discernment. This course is good preparation for high school Latin.

*JH Spanish**Quarter*

Junior High Spanish is designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn the basics of grammar and pronunciation and how to communicate common greetings. Situational conversations and cultural information included in each chapter will allow students to gain some identification with the Spanish -speaking world. Emphasis will be placed

in building a foundation of vocabulary with extensive review and application of those words within basic sentences.

Health & Physical Education: Junior High students are required to take a physical education class each year and health during the eighth grade.

**Boys Physical Education: Grades 7 & 8*

Quarter

This course is designed to give each student the opportunity to continue developing basic motor skills (running, throwing, kicking, etc.); to measure physical strengths and weaknesses; to introduce team games for enjoyment; and to prepare each student for further participation on athletic teams. Team and individual skills are stressed, demonstrated, and put into a game situation. A variety of activities are taught over the quarter that may include fitness activities, speedball, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball, aerobics, roller skating, jump rope skills, bowling, recreational games, team handball, floor hockey, track and field, and softball.

**Girls Physical Education: Grades 7 & 8*

Quarter

This course is designed to give each student the opportunity to continue developing basic motor skills (running, throwing, kicking, etc.); to measure physical strengths and weaknesses; to introduce team games for enjoyment; and to prepare each student for further participation on athletic teams. Team and individual skills are stressed, demonstrated, and put into a game situation. A variety of activities are taught over the quarter that may include fitness activities, speedball, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball, aerobics, roller skating, jump rope skills, bowling, recreational games, team handball, floor hockey, track and field, and softball.

**Boys Health: Grade 8*

Quarter

Boys' Health 8 is designed to introduce the student to a number of subjects related to health. It seeks to develop an awareness of the Christian's stewardship in regard to the care and use of the body. The units covered include general health and wellness, mental and social health, heredity, hygiene, nutrition, reproduction, smoking, alcohol and drugs. Scripture is integrated into each subject. A speaker from "RSVP" (Responsible Social Values Program) presents a four day unit. This program has a very candid approach and discusses responsible decision-making skills that address concerns in our society and that affect the students' daily lives.

**Girls Health: Grade 8*

Quarter

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Technology: Students are required to take two junior high technology courses. An elective course is also available.

**Computer Concepts 1: Grade 7*

Quarter

This is a beginning keyboarding course in which students learn to "type" correctly using the correct fingers for specific keys on the keyboard. They will be proficient typists by the end of this class. In addition to learning the keyboard, students gain basic knowledge on the operation of a computer as well as how to operate different software programs. The students will leave the class typing at least 25 words per minute.

**Computer Concepts 2: Grade 8*

Quarter

Computer Concepts II is a basic Office software class that teaches Word®, PowerPoint®, and Excel®; and it focuses on typing. The students must be able to type at least 35 words per minute by the end of the class. This class also teaches Internet Safety and Ergonomics. Prerequisite: Concepts I.

Sound Technology: Grades 7 or 8; elective

Semester

Junior High Sound Technology is a course designed for students interested in operating a live sound reinforcement system in a variety of settings. The course involves both classroom instruction as well as practical experience outside of class. In addition to classroom lectures, activities, and assessments, students are required to fulfill observation or participation hours each quarter. These hours can be fulfilled by operating a sound system or observing a sound system being operated at different local functions.

Approved February 2009