

# Middle School Course Offerings and Descriptions



**2019-2020**

| <b>Middle School Course Offerings</b>                 | <b>Page</b> |
|---|-------------|
| Curriculum Overview                                   | 2           |
| Course Scheduling                                     | 3           |
| C <sup>7</sup> Experience                             | 4           |
| Grade Level Retreats                                  | 4           |
| January / March term                                  | 5           |
| Departmental Course Descriptions                      |             |
| Bible   | 6           |
| English   | 7           |
| Fine Arts   | 8           |
| Health and Physical Education                         | 10          |
| Mathematics   | 11          |
| Science   | 13          |
| Social Studies  | 14          |
| Technology  | 15          |
| World Languages                                       | 15          |
| Study Hall and Study Tables                           | 17          |
| Office of Academic Success and Instructional Services | 17          |

### **CVCA GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT**

**330-920-8204**

***Email***

|                 |                                      |  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Maureen Plum    | Middle School Guidance Counselor     | <a href="mailto:mplum@cvcaroyals.org">mplum@cvcaroyals.org</a>           |
| Randy Tomich    | Director of Guidance                 | <a href="mailto:rtomich@cvcaroyals.org">rtomich@cvcaroyals.org</a>       |
| Tandy Hicks     | Director of OASIS                    | <a href="mailto:thicks@cvcaroyals.org">thicks@cvcaroyals.org</a>         |
| Scott Iannetta  | Middle School Principal              | <a href="mailto:siannetta@cvcaroyals.org">siannetta@cvcaroyals.org</a>   |
| Emery Nickerson | Assistant Headmaster for Instruction | <a href="mailto:enickerson@cvcaroyals.org">enickerson@cvcaroyals.org</a> |

## Middle School Curriculum Overview

|                          | GRADE 6  | GRADE 7   | GRADE 8   |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Bible*</b>            | God and His Word   | The Life of Christ  | Ministry and Beliefs of the Early Church  |
| <b>English*</b>          | Grade Level Appropriate Grammar, Literature, Reading and Writing; Individualized Vocabulary Development                                  |   |   |
| <b>Fine Arts</b>         | <u>Options*</u><br>Concert Band@<br>Instr. Techniques<br>Choir<br>Handbells@<br>Visual Art   | <u>Options*</u><br>Concert Band@<br>Wind Ensemble@<br>Instr. Techniques<br>Choir<br>Women's Chorale@<br>Handbells@<br>Int. Handbells@<br>Visual Art | <u>Elective Options**</u><br>Concert Band@<br>Wind Ensemble@<br>Instr. Techniques<br>Choir<br>Women's Chorale@<br>Handbells@<br>Int. Handbells@<br>Visual Art |
| <b>Health &amp; P.E.</b> | 3 days per week*   | 2 days per week*  | Elective Option**   |
| <b>Math*</b>             | Math 6<br>OR<br>Pre-Algebra  | Pre-Algebra<br>OR<br>Algebra 1@HS   | Pre-Algebra OR<br>Algebra 1@HS OR<br>Algebra 2 Hon@HS   |
| <b>Science*</b>          | Climate and Earth Science  | Ecology and Life Science  | Applied Physical and Space Science<br>OR<br>Physical Science@HS   |
| <b>Social Studies*</b>   | Ancient Civilizations  | Western Civilizations   | Early American History  |
| <b>Tech.*</b>            | Students who have not yet met keyboarding competency requirements (40 wpm) will be scheduled for <i>Computer Skills</i> 2 days per week. |   |   |
| <b>World Lang.</b>       | World Language & Culture:<br>Foundations of Latin, Mandarin and Spanish;<br>2 days per week*   | World Language & Culture: Practical Applications in Latin, Mandarin and Spanish;<br>3 days per week*  | <u>Elective Options**</u><br>Latin 1@HS<br>Mandarin 1@HS<br>Spanish 1@HS  |
| <b>Study Hall</b>        | One study hall is recommended for all middle school students.  |   |   |

\*Required Course    @Instructor/Departmental Approval Required    HS Offered for high school credit

\*\*Students in Grade 8 must select two electives from Fine Arts, World Language or PE/Health.

## Middle School Course Scheduling

Welcome to middle school! For new students, we look forward to getting to know you and your God-given strengths and abilities. For all students, we are excited that you have chosen to travel with us on one of the most important journeys you can take: an education preparing you for God's calling on your life.

In the middle school, all CVCA students enroll in grade-level Bible, English, Science, and Social Studies courses, and most middle school students benefit from having one study hall incorporated into their schedule. Middle school students also take fine arts (3 days per week) and technology classes (2 days per week). There are multiple fine arts options from which to choose. For technology, most middle school students begin with *Computer Skills*, learning or solidifying keyboarding skills.

For mathematics, middle school students take differentiated courses based on their math ability and proficiency. Course placement is made based on the CVCA placement test and performance in the prior CVCA math course (for returning students). Sometimes, after going through the placement process, students or parents feel that the math placement is incorrect. While the guidance office is certainly open to discuss this with you, please note that students must be able to demonstrate certain math skills and abilities in order to register for advanced math courses. The guidance office will only recommend a course of study that CVCA believes is best for each student. In recommending different math courses for different students, CVCA ensures that each student is fully prepared for the advanced mathematics road ahead.

Sixth and seventh grade students take Health/Physical Education (3 or 2 days per week) and World Language and Culture (2 or 3 days per week). The required sixth and seventh grade World Language and Culture courses introduce students to the three languages offered at CVCA: Latin, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. Students in the eighth grade have an option to apply to take the first year of Latin, Mandarin, or Spanish for high school credit. All eighth grade students select one year-long elective in either Health/Physical Education or World Language (application required).

If you have any questions regarding middle school course scheduling, please do not hesitate to contact the guidance office or me directly.

In Christ,  
L. Emery Nickerson II  
Assistant Headmaster for Instruction

## **Middle School C<sup>7</sup> Experience**

The CVCA Middle School program engages students through Christ-centered learning, challenging them to develop genuine curiosity, strong critical thinking, collaboration skills, creativity, effective communication, and gospel-focused compassion. We collectively refer to these objectives as the C<sup>7</sup> experience and work toward them in our classrooms as well as on special C<sup>7</sup> days scattered throughout the academic year.

The C<sup>7</sup> experience seeks to create the highest levels of active student engagement birthed from intrinsic motivation and curiosity. Students in the 21st century have access to more information than ever before. However, young people must develop discernment to understand the differences between information/knowledge and wisdom. It is not enough to compile knowledge without the ability to think critically; students must learn to apply their knowledge to life by way of biblical wisdom, communicate their understanding to others clearly, and work together with others having different perspectives toward greater understanding and/or creativity. The objectives of the C<sup>7</sup> experience are adopted throughout the middle school program so that CVCA students may garner the skills, attitudes and abilities necessary to maximize gospel influence in our ever changing culture.

C<sup>7</sup> is not always clean and neat; sometimes it is outside the box and avant-garde. C<sup>7</sup> is a willingness to think differently and sometimes to challenge the status quo. It creates an educational environment that values investigation by students problem solving based on relevant questions.

## **Grade Level Retreats**

### **Ignition - Grade 6**

Ignition will start everything off in the right direction as students begin their journeys at CVCA. Ice-breaking, team building activities, worship, and opportunities to get to know classmates and teachers will all be wrapped into this beginning orientation and sixth grade community-building experience. Ignition will ease the transition into CVCA with a two day/one night trip to a local Christian Camp that will build bonds, ease anxieties, and prepare the entire 6th grade class to be successful in their first year at CVCA.

### **Jumpstart - Grade 7**

At the beginning of the school year, the incoming seventh grade class travels together for a three day/two night adventure at a Christian camp. Students have the opportunity to meet new friends and new teachers during these action packed days. Adventure activities include tackling the ropes course, kayaking, indoor rock climbing, a zipline, swimming, hiking, and many outdoor adventures. In the evening, students are challenged to grow closer to the Lord and to one another during chapels and campfire times that include worship, skits, and messages.

**LaunchPoint - Grade 8**

LaunchPoint is a half-day, team-building, fun day where both the returning and new 8th graders combine to get to know each other and reconnect as they begin the new school year. Working in their Connections group teams, students accomplish various "challenges" requiring them to work together to accomplish a goal. Plenty of social time to catch-up with friends is included, and we also spend devotional time together focused on the upcoming school year.

**Middle School January / March term****Wintermission - 6th Grade**

Wintermission is built to give 6th graders a true break from the everyday school schedule and have some fun bonding and learning with their classmates and teachers. Students will engage in activities that promote more growth toward the mission of the school, *Educating and cultivating servants for Christ*. Designed to encourage students to finish strong in the second half of year, Wintermission is a 3 day adventure that will challenge the students academically, socially, and spiritually as they begin to look toward the 7th grade.

**PolarBlast - 7th Grade**

PolarBlast is an experience for CVCA's 7th graders. This retreat picks up where JumpStart left off and gives 7th graders another great opportunity to bond as a class, deepen friendships, try new things, and develop a closer relationship with God. Cabins are led by godly alumni mentors who are incredible examples to our 7th graders of what it means to live a life of faith and devotion to Christ. Each day is filled with fun activities and unique opportunities like horseback riding and paintball. Each night, students connect with God through chapel and worship, hear from God's Word, and are prayed for. PolarBlast is more than just a fun retreat; it is an opportunity to experience spiritual transformation.

**ArcticQuest - 8th Grade**

Eighth graders travel on a trip of a lifetime where they walk through history as described by God in the Bible. Day 1 lands them at the Creation Museum where there are over 140 state-of-the-art exhibits portraying the 7 C's of history from a biblical worldview perspective: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. Students come up close for an insider's view of the creation of the universe! Day two lands them on a life-sized replica of Noah's Ark as described in Genesis, over one and a half football fields in length! Inside the ark they visit exhibits showing artistic renderings of what animals may have looked like and how they could have all fit easily inside the ark. Challenges of food, water, waste and survival are explored, all from a biblical perspective. A Day 3 stop at the National Air Force Museum on our way home is a jaw-dropping experience for students as they see the science that God created played out in both air and space. This experience is memorable for eighth graders as the pages of scripture are brought to life, showing overwhelming evidence that supports the biblical account of history.

## **BIBLE**

Students are required to take Bible each year. Families are encouraged to have their students read the Bible aloud to the family.

### ***Bible 6 - God and His Word***

*Annual*

This year long course will seek to introduce students to the study of God the Father and the basics of understanding the Bible. Students will become familiar with the attributes of God and their significance. Students will look at sections from across the whole canon to understand the character of God. They will examine the structure, books, and genres of the Bible, and they will begin learning how to interpret the words of the Bible. Particular attention will be paid to how issues of theology have practical implications for life.

### ***Bible 7 - Life of Christ***

*Annual*

This course introduces 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?"). Students learn through creative projects, watching movies and writing reflection papers, working through devotions, journaling about Chapel messages, and completing assignments aimed at getting students deep into the Word of God.

### ***Bible 8 - Ministry and Beliefs of the Early Church***

*Annual*

Ministry and Beliefs of the Early Church (MABEC) is a course that observes and studies the acts and the writings of the Apostles and other eyewitnesses of Jesus the Christ after He left this earth. The incarnation of God was a unique and unprecedented revelation of God's nature and character. Thus, intently studying the lives and writings of those who came into direct contact with Jesus is of paramount importance. This will be done by using the book of Acts as the narrative backbone of the course, while using select Epistles to supplement our understanding of the beliefs of the characters met there.

## ENGLISH

Students are required to take English each year and are also required to meet assigned goals in Membean (an individualized online vocabulary program). Parents are asked to quiz their students on their spelling to attain mastery of these words.

### ***English 6***

*Annual*

English 6 lays the groundwork for CVCA's middle school English classes, which integrate the skills learned in grammar, writing, vocabulary, spelling, and literature. The curriculum is designed to challenge students at all levels. Skills are presented in an appropriate developmental sequence as students grow in their ability to communicate. The study of literature includes a focus on literary devices and story development across multiple genres. The writing program gives practical application to the skills taught while developing the student's writing voice and ability in both formal and informal writing.

*Prerequisite: None*

### ***English 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 essay 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 fiction and nonfiction works. Writing gives practical application to the above skills while developing the knowledge and imagination of the student.

*Prerequisite: Summer Required Reading - The Magician's Nephew, by C. S. Lewis, and the Gospel of Mark*

### ***English 8***

*Annual*

The English 8 curriculum provides a strong background in grammar, vocabulary, literature, composition, and speaking. An understanding of standard English grammar is essential to its application in all written and verbal communications. Much time is devoted to the application of grammar in writing narrative and expository essays. The literature curriculum includes both fiction and nonfiction. Basic terminology of literary analysis and structures of the various genres are taught.

*Prerequisite: Summer Required Reading - Prince Caspian, by C. S. Lewis, and the Gospel of Matthew*

## **FINE ARTS**

All middle school students select one course from among the courses listed below. These courses meet three times each week throughout the year.

### ***Middle School Visual Art—Grades 6,7,8***

*Annual*

Middle School Visual Art is an overview course designed to allow each student to explore a variety of media, techniques and methods. Projects focus on introducing and developing the elements and principles of design. Samplings of two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects are produced.

*Prerequisite: None.*

### ***Instrumental Techniques—Grades 6,7,8***

*Annual*

Beginning Instruments is a course designed for students wishing to learn a new band or string instrument for the first time or for students who already play an instrument but need more individual attention than is possible in a full band or orchestra class. Students who already play an instrument and wish to learn another are also welcome. The goal of the course is for each student to gain the skills necessary to eventually be placed into the full CVCA band or orchestra. Instrumental music experience is not required. Students will be given direction from the instructor in choosing an instrument appropriate for their physical make up.

*Prerequisite: 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. CVCA will also provide the large cello and bass.*

### ***Middle School Concert Band—Grades 6,7,8***

*Annual*

Middle School Concert Band is an intermediate level band. 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. The course may be taken multiple years. Parents are asked to provide practice space and time for students.

*Prerequisite: Students are expected to have prior musical experience, either through elementary band, private lessons, or the Beginning Instrumental Techniques course.*

### ***Middle School Wind Ensemble—Grades 7 & 8***

*Annual*

Middle School Wind Ensemble is an advanced level band. The course is designed to build upon skills students have already developed in Concert Band or in an equivalent musical experience. 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. The course may be taken multiple years. Parents are asked to provide practice space and time for their students.

*Prerequisite: Audition or instructor approval*

### ***Middle School Choir—Grades 6,7,8***

*Annual*

The Middle School Choir is open to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. Students learn the foundations of singing, including correct posture, breathing, and vocal warm-up techniques. Basic music theory and music reading is presented with various sight reading method books. Many different music styles are performed, including hymns, contemporary Christian, and traditional choral music. The Middle School 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. Parents are asked to provide practice space and time for students.

*Prerequisite: None*

### ***Middle School Women’s Chorale -Grades 7 & 8***

*Annual*

This group performs primarily SSA (Soprano, Second Soprano and Alto) music of various styles including hymns, contemporary Christian, and traditional choral 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.

*Prerequisite: Audition or instructor approval*

### ***Middle School Handbells—Grades 6,7,8***

*Annual*

The Middle School Handbell Choir is a group giving emphasis to musical styles, interpretation, individual skills, technical development, and varied repertoire. The course is open to all Middle School students, but an audition may be required during the first week of school to fill available positions. The course may be taken multiple years. The group performs several times per year and all performances are mandatory.

*Prerequisite: Students must have experience in reading music in both treble and bass clefs. Previous handbell or piano experience is preferred, but not required.*

### ***Intermediate Handbells - Grades 7 & 8***

*Annual*

Intermediate Handbell Choir is for students who have either played in Middle School Handbell Choir or who display a high level of music and rhythm reading ability. Intermediate Handbells is a group giving emphasis to musical styles, interpretation, advanced individual skills, advanced technical development, and varied repertoire. The course may be taken multiple years. The group performs several times per year and all performances are mandatory.

*Prerequisite: Membership is by director approval. Open positions are typically filled first by students with at least one or more years of Middle School Handbell experience.*

## **HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Students in 6th grade have PE three days per week, students in 7th grade have PE two days per week, and students in 8th grade may choose PE five days a week as one of their two electives. Health topics are distributed across the middle school years in a developmentally appropriate fashion.

### ***Physical Education & Health—Grade 6 and 7***

*Annual; 3 days per week in 6th grade, 2 days per week in 7th grade*

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 year that may include fitness activities, speedball, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball, roller skating, jump rope skills, bowling, recreational games, floor hockey, and softball. Additionally, fitness training is integrated throughout the semester during physical education. The Health portion 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, hygiene, refusal skills, nutrition, skills for healthy relationships, and tobacco use. Scripture is integrated into each subject. A speaker from "Operation Keepsake" presents one unit. This program has a very candid approach and discusses responsible decision-making skills that address concerns in our society that affect the students' daily lives.

*This course is divided into three separate sections: Grade 6, Grade 7 Boys, and Grade 7 Girls.*

### ***Physical Education & Health—Grade 8***

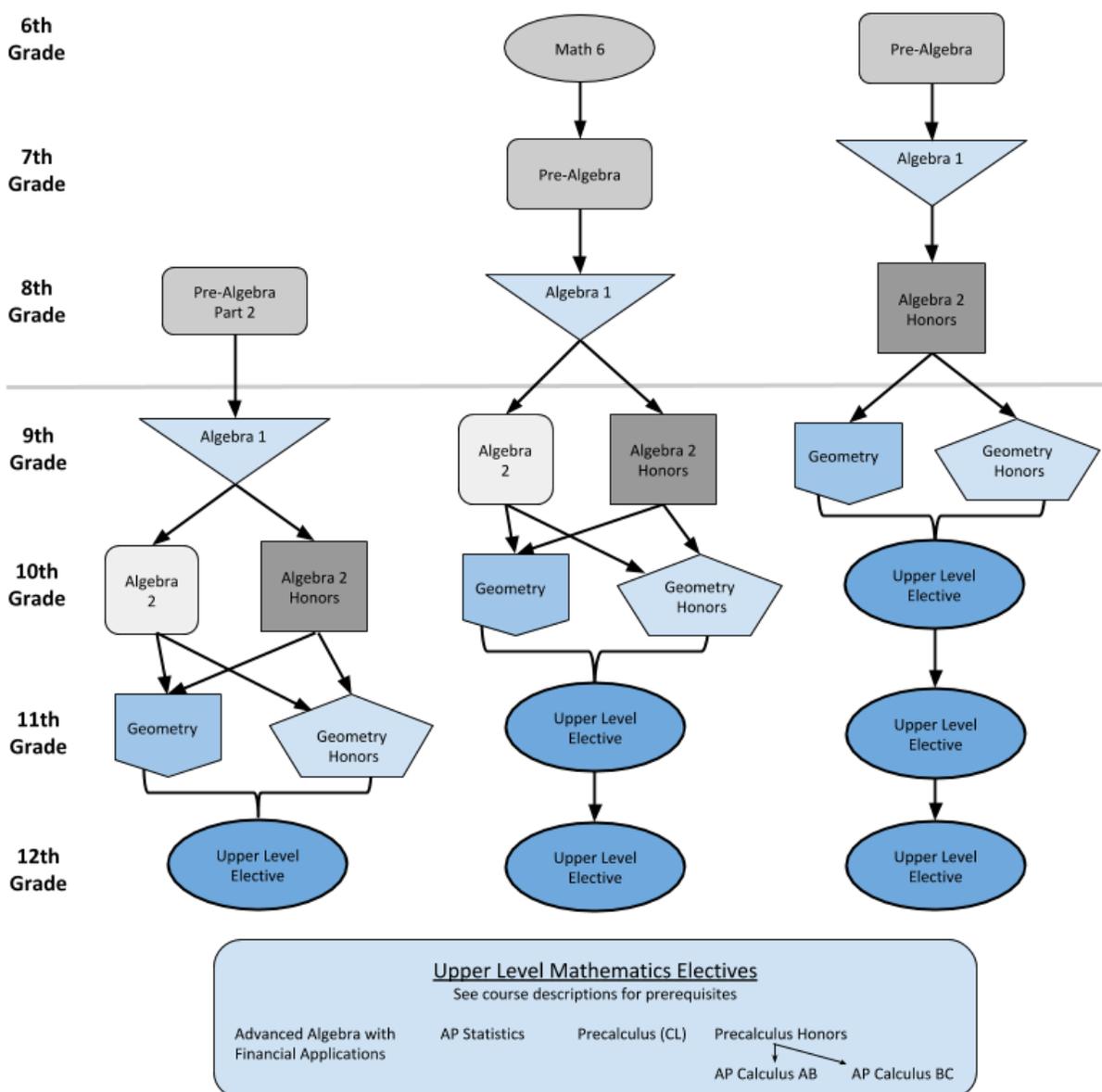
*Annual*

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, flag football and softball. Various Health topics will be covered throughout the year as well. A speaker from "Operation Keepsake" presents one unit. This program has a very candid approach and discusses responsible decision-making skills that address concerns in our society that affect the students' daily lives.

*This course is divided into two separate sections: Grade 8 Boys and Grade 8 Girls.*

## MATHEMATICS

CVCA students are required to take a math course each year. Registering for Pre-Algebra in sixth grade or Algebra 1 in seventh grade is possible *with proven competency and readiness*, but this is rare. Satisfactory performance on the CVCA Algebra Readiness Assessment or satisfactory completion of Pre-Algebra at CVCA is required to register for Algebra 1 in middle school. Permission of the department, based on demonstrated conceptual understanding, calculational fluency and sufficient maturity, is required for students enrolling in all advanced classes. Students not performing well, as determined by the CVCA math department, may be moved to a lower level math course at a quarter or semester break.



**Math 6—Grade 6***Annual*

Sixth grade math is designed to help students develop an understanding and fluency of computation, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills in mathematics, while introducing concepts necessary for success in Pre-Algebra. Students will also effectively communicate math operations through verbal and written response. This course leads to Pre-Algebra in the seventh grade. Topics include the number system, geometry, ratios, proportional relationships, expressions, equations, data, and graphs.

**Pre-Algebra—Grade 7 (Grade 6 with proven competency and approval)***Annual*

The fundamental purpose of the course is to prepare students for the sometimes abstract concepts they may encounter in Algebra 1. 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 real numbers, order of operations, linear equations and graphs, inequalities, graphing basic quadratic functions, simplifying polynomials, geometry, and statistics. A strong foundation in basic computational skills is expected.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 6 or demonstration of readiness via the CVCA math placement test*

**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 students' knowledge of the number system with an introduction to irrational numbers. Pre-Algebra Part 2 also introduces 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, with an emphasis on problem solving. Students successfully completing Pre-Algebra Part 2 will continue to Algebra 1 as ninth graders.

**Algebra 1—Grade 8 (Grade 7 with proven competency and approval)***Annual, 1 high school credit*

Middle School Algebra 1 is a high school course for those students who have successfully completed Pre-Algebra. The course requires academic maturity and motivation. The course begins with a brief review of pre-algebra concepts, but general mastery of pre-algebra is assumed. 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-84 graphing calculator to explore and discover math concepts. Students connect mathematics to real world situations and explain concepts through written response. Students are expected to maintain a "B" average in this course. The grade earned in this course is included in the student's high school GPA; students earning below a "B" average may be counseled to retake Algebra 1 the following year to ensure a solid algebraic foundation for higher mathematics.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra or demonstration of readiness via the CVCA math placement test, as well as departmental approval is required.*

### **Algebra 2 Honors —Grade 8, 9 or 10**

*Annual; 1 credit*

Algebra 2 extends the concepts and skills of algebra. Students explore types of functions (linear, exponential, logarithmic, quadratic, radical, polynomial, and rational), solving equations and inequalities as well as systems, data analysis, and complex numbers. The TI-84 graphing calculator is required and is used to investigate the relationship between functions and their graphs. Applications connecting real life situations and algebra are stressed. Algebra 2 Honors is an accelerated course with a depth of material that sufficiently prepares the student for continuing toward upper level high school math classes. Students who are interested in continuing to pursue upper level math courses and have shown past success are recommended to register for this course. After successful completion of this course, students should enroll in Geometry or Geometry Honors. Students are expected to maintain a “B” average in this course. The grade earned in this course is included in the student’s high school GPA; students earning below a “B” average may be counseled to retake Algebra 2 the following year to ensure a solid algebraic foundation for higher mathematics. [Note: This course is not offered as an exclusively middle school course. Middle school students enrolled in Algebra 2 Honors take the course in the high school.]

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Middle School Algebra 1 or demonstration of readiness via the CVCA math placement test, as well as departmental approval is required.*

## **SCIENCE**

Students are required to take science each year.

### **Science 6 - Climate and Earth Science**

*Annual*

The course content in Science 6 stresses scientific classification. This includes an emphasis of geology topics and the classification and study of rocks, minerals and soils. The cycles and patterns of the earth are investigated as geology and climatology topics. Additionally, scientific inquiry is used in each of these topics in laboratory exercises and includes some life and physical science integration. Within the study of these topics the student will understand better God’s creative handiwork in the earth sciences.

### **Science 7 - Ecology and Life Science**

*Annual*

Course content includes the biosphere, organism interactions, cycles of nature, energy flow, characteristics of organisms, structure and function of the microscope, structure and function of the cell, genetics, and human body systems. The subject is covered in depth with many supporting labs and activities. Students are involved in making models, investigating, using microscopes, writing lab reports, classroom presentations and using technology to enhance their education.

**Science 8 - Applied Physical and Space Science**

*Annual*

Science 8 focuses on two distinct areas: introductory *Physical Science* and *Earth & Space Science*. Designed as a lab course to prepare each student for high school science, this class consists of the following units: Forces, Matter, and the Atom; Waves; Energy; Motion; Our Active Earth; The Cosmos; Our Solar System; and Application of Motion – including rockets!

**Physical Science—Grade 8**

*Annual; 1 high school credit*

Physical Science is a combination of astronomy, pre-chemistry, and pre-physics. The course requires academic maturity and motivation. In this course the student is trained to exercise basic experimental and measurement skills. The course is founded on the diversity, properties, and interactions of both matter and energy. Sample units include the solar system, chemical reactions, laws of motion, and waves. This course provides students with the foundation to understand the more advanced science courses offered later in high school. A physics of motion project is required during second semester. Students are expected to maintain a “B” average in this course, and the grade earned in this course is included in the student’s high school GPA.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra or demonstration of readiness via the CVCA math placement test, as well as departmental approval is required.*

**Social Studies**

Students are required to enroll in Social Studies each year.

**Social Studies 6 - Ancient Civilizations**

*Annual*

Ancient Civilizations presents a look at the major societies of ancient history through the perspectives of those who lived then. Students will be challenged to build relevant critical thinking and investigative skills while following a timeline of how God used various ancient peoples to shape the direction of His world. Additionally, students will evaluate world religions, comparing and contrasting them with Christianity, as well as understand how to form and support Christ-centered perspectives on events both ancient and modern.

**Social Studies 7 - Western Civilizations**

*Annual*

Western Civilizations presents an in-depth analysis of the civilizations that have shaped the modern Western world. Students will be challenged to interact with influential civilizations throughout the history of Europe, stepping into the various roles of the citizens and rulers of the time through simulated learning, virtual field trips, critical thinking activities, creation-based projects, and more. Furthermore,

students will track God's provision of His Church throughout the timeline of Europe, exploring ways that Christianity has affected the culture and events of Western civilizations even to the modern era.

### ***Social Studies 8 - Early American History***

#### *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.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Each fall, students are required to take *Computer Skills* until they have demonstrated typing proficiency of 40 words per minute or greater with 95% accuracy in correct typing form by the beginning of the semester.

### ***Computer Skills —Grades 6, 7 and 8***

#### *Fall Semester, 2 times per week*

This is a beginning keyboarding course in which students learn to type properly 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 of the operation of a computer as well as how to operate different software programs. Emphasis is placed on using the Google Apps suite to create documents, presentations, and spreadsheets, but the primary focus of the course is keyboarding proficiency. Students are expected to complete the class typing at least 40 words per minute with 95% accuracy in correct typing form.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE**

Middle school students will be introduced to the language and culture courses available at CVCA during sixth and seventh grade. Parents are asked to quiz their students on vocabulary and spelling so students can obtain mastery of these important foundational skills. Interested and qualified eighth grade students may *apply* to take a high school world language course. Qualified eighth grade students should have excellent grades in English 7, especially on vocabulary and grammar assessments, as well as demonstrate good all around academic performance in all required subjects. At the end of quarter 1, each middle school student in a high school world language class will be evaluated to ensure appropriate placement; if a student's guidance counselor (in collaboration with the teacher) recommends a student drop the high school class, the course will not be listed on the student's transcript (permanent record).

For those students remaining in the high school class, the grades earned in high school courses are included in a student's high school GPA.

***MS World Language & Culture: Foundations —Grade 6***

*Annual, 2 times per week*

During the first quarter of this year long course meeting two days each week, students will discuss foundational elements of language acquisition, experiment with different methods to learn and practice vocabulary (such as songs, chants or pictures), as well as consider a Biblical approach to why students should learn another language. For the remaining 3 quarters, students will explore each of the languages offered at CVCA (Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish) and consider the Biblical, cultural, historical, and linguistic elements that are foundational and unique to each language and culture.

***MS World Language & Culture: Practical Applications—Grade 7***

*Annual, 3 times per week*

In the introductory quarter of this year long course that meets three days each week, students will focus on successful strategies for language practice and acquisition. They will also explore what it means to be image bearers of God, considering how different languages reflect culture and can bring glory to God in unique ways. For the remainder of the year, students will develop and expand knowledge and skills necessary to use basic vocabulary and grammatical structures in each language (Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish) for interpretive, interpersonal and presentational purposes. Through thematic units, students will explore each language from linguistic, historical, socio-cultural, and spiritual perspectives, culminating in a project where they will be challenged to compare and contrast each language and culture as a part of the larger Biblical perspective.

***Latin 1—HS Level Elective open to qualified students in grade 8***

*Annual, 1 high school credit*

Latin 1 provides students with a solid foundation in Latin grammar. At this level, the four conjugations of Latin verbs and the first three declensions are emphasized. Students begin studying Roman history including the periods of the monarchy; the early Republic; and the Punic Wars. In addition, various topics in mythology are explored such as the Olympians; Jason and the Argonauts; and Cupid and Psyche. This course strengthens students' skills in English, and it gives them an appreciation for classical history, culture, and language.

***Mandarin 1—HS Level Elective open to qualified students in grade 8***

*Annual, 1 high school credit*

Mandarin Chinese 1 is an introductory course for beginning world language learners. It sets the stage for continued growth in Mandarin through the upper levels of the program. In Mandarin Chinese 1, students focus on comprehensible input and speaking. Students learn the Romanization system of Chinese called *pinyin* (e.g. Nihao!) as well as read the most common the characters (e.g. 你好!). Students will learn to use the computer to type in Chinese, helping them to write and giving a jumpstart for computer based assessments in Chinese. The classroom environment will emphasize language immersion, with students taking advantage of task-based learning.



**Spanish 1—HS Level Elective open to qualified students in grade 8**

*Annual, 1 high school credit*

Spanish 1, an introductory course for beginning world language learners, will establish a solid foundation for future study of language. Students experience a context-rich environment with consistent exposure to comprehensible input in order to develop their listening skills. As students acquire vocabulary and structure of the language, students will be expected to interact with the language in both small groups and whole class settings. Because Spanish is the primary language used by over 40 million people worldwide, students will be encouraged to develop skills in the 4 modes of communication: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Additionally, students will explore some of the cultures and customs of various Spanish-speaking countries.

**STUDY HALL AND STUDY TABLES**

*Study Hall* is typically scheduled for all middle school students. It is time set aside for reviewing lessons, reading, working on assignments, and reflecting on learning. *Study Tables* take place during lunch and are not to be confused with Study Hall. *Study Tables* provide an extra measure of accountability for students who demonstrate a pattern of not being academically prepared for class.

**OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (OASIS)**

*The Office of Academic Success and Instructional Services (OASIS)* is available for students needing small-group instruction in study and organizational skills. It is not a homework study hall, although the OASIS faculty often use student assignments as springboards for study skill instruction. Students are assigned to OASIS by the guidance office based on previous school records, entrance testing, quarter grades, and teacher recommendations. If a parent believes that their child would benefit from OASIS services, they are encouraged to contact the Director of OASIS to discuss.