

Grade 8

Course Descriptions



Math

Description:

The Pre-Algebra curriculum carefully blends each concept with demonstrations applying them to daily life circumstances. The course begins with a refresher in solving basic addition and subtraction equations including the working of word problems. Operations using decimals, integers, fractions and percentages are included. Students learn how to write scientific notations and how to solve equations that contain inequalities. Banking concepts are taught covering ratios, proportions and percentages. About mid-year the course advances into geometry and statistics. The course concludes with topics covering square roots, graphing and functions

Goals:

- Demonstrate flexibility in solving problems by selecting strategies and using mental computation, estimation, calculators or computers, and paper and pencil.
- Understand and use measurement concepts including indirect measurement.
- Apply geometric properties and relationships, including the Pythagorean theorem to solve problems.
- Understand and use graphs in data analysis and recognize the improper use of data.
- Demonstrate an understanding of linear relations and advanced pre-algebraic concepts.



Reading

Description:

The 8th grade integrated reading and vocabulary program guides students in reading literature in light of a Christian worldview while learning how to deal biblically with objectionable elements. The curriculum teaches students to recognize and appreciate literary techniques, presents a variety of literary genres, and develops critical thinking skills. Students practice applying literary knowledge through writing practices, worksheets and developmental techniques. This curriculum continues to build vocabulary, focusing on the study of Latin root words and presenting new vocabulary in word families that share a prefix, root, or suffix. The workbook provides many reinforcement exercises to help students retain vocabulary words.

Goals:

- Comprehend the history of literature.
- Judge literature against biblical truths.
- Recognize and apply literary techniques.
- Describe various genres.
- Apply critical thinking skills and present thoughts and ideas.



Composition

Description:

The English composition 8 curriculum emphasizes various components of sentence structures. As each component is emphasized, students practice recognizing the correct use of the concepts through the review of writing samples. Concepts are reinforced and followed by students applying the skill using their own personal writing style. Genres explored in this course include short fiction, novel, drama, poetry, hymns, folktale, personal essay, humorous essay and diary. Questioning techniques introduce students to terms and concepts used in literary analysis, and guides the students in evaluating literature.

Goals:

- Communicate effectively.
- Develop and improve writing techniques.
- Integrate varying concepts into one cohesive text.
- Establish planning, editing and research skills.



Science

Description:

The Science 8 curriculum is designed to be the last science course the student takes before high school biology. Students learn about the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, weather, the structure of the earth, environmentalism, the physics of motion, Newton's Laws, gravity, and astrophysics. Students learn the difference between myths and truth related to creation and the environment. They also enjoy many hands-on experiments. This course is an excellent course for preparing the student to take a college-prep high school science curriculum.

Goals:

- Identify the various components of the earth.
- Describe the effects of various forces in creation.
- Describe the lithosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere.
- Describe the characteristics of sound and light.



Geography / History

Description:

The American Republic curriculum for 8th grade takes the student into a deeper understanding of the events to establish the colonies. Discussions cover the relationships among American leaders and British leaders. Events which established the U.S. as a nation are covered, and how the nation grew and expanded into new territories.

A close look is had at the policies of the most recent U.S. presidents, what they represented and how their views affected the strength and stability of America.

Goals:

- Identify and describe the differences between the 2 major political views represented when the Articles of Confederation were ratified
- Describe the contents of the articles of the U.S. Constitution
- Understand the results of the major events that shaped the U.S. culture and borders including the Civil War, Lewis and Clark exhibition, the Florida purchase, Spanish-American War, and WWII
- Discuss changes in the U.S. agriculture, views on slavery, industry and culture



Leaders in Action

Description:

The Bible curriculum for grades 6 – 8 is called Leaders in Action. To prepare students for high school and to be godly leaders, students are challenged to solve problems through scripture research. At the start of each lesson, the students are given a mystery to solve. Throughout the lesson students are given clues and learn how to search the Bible for guidance and answers. Students gain knowledge of the structure of the Bible, how to find scriptures and how to use scripture to interpret scripture. While having fun, students learn Christian core values and how to apply them to their circumstances.

Goals:

- Understand the structure of the Bible.
- Demonstrate how to search scriptures for guidance.
- Apply Bible study tools.
- Interpret the meanings of Biblical texts.
- Recognize biblical choices.