

2017-2018
8th Grade Course Selection



Fort Worth Christian
Middle School

SPECIAL MISSION

Consistent with our mission statement, Fort Worth Christian Middle School faculty seeks to educate the whole student. Middle school activities include instructional classroom time, opportunities for service and spiritual development, and athletic and academic competitions. The Middle School provides a bridge from the highly structured elementary grades to the high school level, which provides higher expectations and a greater emphasis on independent learning.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

All classes are taught from a Biblical worldview with the campus' Faith Standards incorporated into instruction on a weekly basis. Students attend chapel daily as well as a Bible class. Opportunities for service learning exist throughout the year. We recognize that all of one's life should be lived to bring honor to God. All activities are viewed with a Christian perspective whether in Bible class, on the playing field, or raking leaves for an elderly neighbor.

ENRICHMENT

FWC provides students with opportunities for learning outside the classroom. Sixth graders travel to a global village experience at HUT in Arkansas. Seventh graders travel to Big Bend National Park. This camping activity provides an education in nature, far from the technology that daily consumes our lives. Eighth graders travel to Washington D.C. and New York City to visit places they've studied in history. In addition, students may travel to academic meets, and participate in Fine Arts activities such as the school play and choir and band competitions. Further activities for student involvement include: Small Group Leadership, Book Club, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Cheerleading, and FWC-TV.

8th Grade Core Classes

Athletics (1st Period) - Enrollment open to all 8th grade students

Competitive athletics is offered to all seventh and eighth grade students. Students enrolling in athletics will participate in one of our competitive sports. Boys sports include football, cross-country, basketball, soccer and track. Girls sports include volleyball, cross-country, basketball, soccer and track. Students not participating in a sport during its season will workout regularly in off-season in preparation for their upcoming season. Students enrolling in athletics will not be allowed to participate without a physical. Students are also expected to adhere to the Athletic Handbook.

Physical Education 8 (1st Period) - Enrollment open to 8th grade students

Improving the existing fitness level is the primary goal of physical education in seventh and eighth grade. This is done through activities that challenge students in the basic elements of fitness, which are cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance and flexibility. Body composition, another element of fitness, is addressed through limited information on basic nutrition and physiology. A secondary goal is to expose the students to a variety of physical activities that they can pursue outside of school to continue their personal fitness.

Off-Campus Physical Education 8 - Enrollment open only 8th graders

Students interested in fulfilling the Physical Education requirements in an off-campus setting must file an application that meets the approval of the Principal and Athletic Director. The student and parents must agree to the parameters set forth by Fort Worth Christian School. The student must be involved in a physical activity that is at or above pre-Olympic or professional level and is not offered at FWC. The student will furnish the school with an outline of the program on business letterhead with contact information for the instructor. The coach/trainer will need to provide FWC with written documentation of student attendance, a grade report (pass/fail) every three weeks and an activity log verifying the hours completed of the daily monitored activities. It is the student's responsibility to have an activity log completed daily and delivered to the campus counselor every third week. The instructor will contact FWC if the student's attendance becomes irregular. The activity must be completed during the student's scheduled PE/Athletics time so as not to miss any other class instruction. Students choosing to participate in off-campus Physical Education will not be allowed to participate in athletics offered by the campus.

Algebra I (High school credit)Pre-Requisite of Pre-Algebra required**

The primary focal points of Algebra I are to continue to build and apply basic understandings developed in the K-8 curriculum, develop symbolic reasoning, understand functions and their relationships with equations, and to be able to use a variety of tools and technology to represent functions with multiple representations. Students will learn the skills required to manipulate symbols in order to solve problems and use the necessary algebraic skills required to simplify algebraic expressions and to solve equations and inequalities in problem situations. Students will formulate equations, inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, quadratic equations, absolute value equations and inequalities, use a variety of methods to solve them, and be able to graph the solutions. Other topics covered include factoring, simplifying with exponents, and simplifying radicals.

Bible 8

Eighth grade Bible is designed to help students develop a Christian worldview. The Sermon on the Mount is reviewed as an introduction to the Lightbearers series. From this course students will be able to defend their faith against other humanistic worldviews of the day. Students will be able to apply their faith to every area of life such as theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, sociology, psychology, law, politics, economics and history. Many contemporary issues are studied to gain an understanding of how God's truth can be applied in a world of relativism and confusion. By the end of the course, students will be able to answer life's toughest questions with scriptural application. Bible classes will be separated according to gender.

English 8

Eighth grade English concentrates on writing formal essays with emphasis on developing structure in formal writing. Students apply grammar rules and components as well as expand sentences to include more information. Phrases and clauses are used to enhance writing and add maturity to their writing. MacBooks are used for a variety of writing assignments, research, and projects. Literature focus is on short stories, novels and poems. A variety of literature such as contemporary, historical, and classical fiction as well as nonfiction are all used to introduce, reinforce and master not only literary elements and figurative language, but also to find truth and Christian principles to apply to their own lives and situations.

American History 8

American History in eighth grade focuses on the time period from Columbus until the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students learn with an online text, multimedia presentations, debates, current events, projects and tests. Classroom discussion includes lessons we learn from history and how to apply them to our current world. Students will also gain an appreciation for the sacrifices and hardships others have endured that resulted in privileges we take for granted today.

Pre-Algebra 8

The primary focus of Pre-Algebra is to prepare students to be successful in Algebra I. Concepts to be mastered during the class include solving two-step equations, factoring monomials, using proportions to solve real-world problems and solving real-life problems involving discount and interest. Additionally students will solve linear equations with two variables, graph linear equations and write the equation of a line in the y-intercept form. Students will also use geometric thinking in order to find the missing root of a triangle, use the distance formula to determine lengths on a coordinate plane as well as calculate area, perimeter and/or circumference of appropriate geometric figures. Students will add and subtract polynomials and multiply polynomials as well as graph linear, quadratic and cubic functions.

Science 8 Integrated Physics and Chemistry (High school Science credit)

IPC is an inquiry-based learning class. Designed to meet a variety of learning styles, IPC combines strong in-depth coverage of physics and chemistry with abundant hands-on activities. This course uses data collecting, graphing skills and the scientific process to reinforce basic scientific knowledge. Laboratory investigations are the heart of this course, which develop the student's ability to apply these learned skills in everyday life.

8th Grade Electives

Fort Worth Christian Middle School's philosophy is to expose students to a variety of electives, which results in well-rounded students. Exposing students to various subjects helps them discover their interests and gives them clarity to what subjects they want to pursue in their high school and college years. Elective classes for 8th grade students are during 7th period and activity period. Important things to know:

Elective	Meeting Schedule/Duration	Notes
Digital Video	M-F for one year	HS Technology Credit - requires 90% cumulative average or above
Spanish I	M-F for one year	HS Language Credit - requires 90% cumulative average or above
Tech Applications	M-F for one year	HS Technology Credit - requires 90% cumulative average or above
Latin	M-F for one year	HS Language Credit - requires 90% cumulative average or above
Advanced Art	M-F for one year	HS Fine Arts Credit - requires 90% cumulative average or above
Advanced Choir*	TT for one year	
Advanced Band*	M-F for one year	
Home Economics	M-F for one semester	
Learning Lab/Study Skills*	MWF or TT for one semester	
Seminar*	MWF or TT for one semester	
Advanced Strings*	MWF for one year	
Theater*	MWF for one year	
World Drumming	MWF or TT for one semester	

*Denotes class can be repeated. Please see elective course descriptions in the elective section for more information

Elective Course Descriptions

Advanced Art 8 - Enrollment open all 8th grade students (High School Fine Arts Credit - requires 90% cumulative average)

Advanced Art (equivalent to HS Art I) is designed to expose students to a variety of 2D and 3D mediums with an emphasis on the elements of art and principles of design. Students will explore a variety of mediums including, but not limited to drawing, pastel, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, glass fusion, and digitally generated art.

Advanced Band 7, 8- Enrollment open to 6th (with approval) 7th and 8th grade

Band incorporates the study of selected music from various periods with the focus on excellence in performance level. Consideration is given to breath control, tone production, tonguing, phrasing, intonation and skills to perform with an ensemble. Band members perform with the FWC Cardinal Pep Band and with the high school band. They also participate in formal concerts and spring music festivals as part of a large group ensemble and may also participate in a solo or ensemble. The review and application of music notation with an instrument and the use of musical attributes used to make music “musical” with instruments are taught and applied in the classroom and encouraged to be practiced outside the classroom.

Advanced Choir 7, 8 - Enrollment open to 6th (with approval) 7th and 8th grade

This course is designed to encourage the continued development of vocal performance in an ensemble setting. Song selections range from contemporary to classical pieces, allowing the student to experience all styles of music. Advanced choir will include the opportunity to perform in concerts both in chapel settings and evening performances.

Computer 8 - Technology Applications - Enrollment open to 8th grade students (High School technology credit - requires 90% cumulative average)

Technology Applications is a course that will expose the student to computers and its application in our society today. Discussions will surround computer hardware, computer programming, and software applications. Students will learn the basics of these topics through class discussion and lecture, and then will apply them through computer and digital electronic projects. This course utilizes an interactive hands-on project-based curriculum which is designed to both stimulate interest in the fields of computer and engineering as well as give the student a strong foundation of knowledge that is fundamental to all fields of computer science, engineering and technology. This class is counted as a high school technology credit.

Digital Video 8 - Enrollment open to 8th grade students (High School elective credit - requires 90% cumulative average) **Students selected based on auditions

Video 8 covers an array of digital media emphasizing a Christian perspective. Students will master the advanced features of iMovie, iPhoto, iTunes and Comic Life through multiple media projects throughout the year. Mixed into the curriculum, students will also learn how to use multiple tools in Adobe PhotoShop. They will manipulate a variety of images applying layers, filters, enhancing colors and more. Many projects are printed for students to keep. There is a strong focus on the productions of FWCTV, a variety news show that is shown to all middle school students. This allows students to use professional video equipment including

an HD video camera, blue/green screens, camera lights, a boom, and microphones, which are all, used in this class. Students learn to write scripts using the 5 stages of the story arc for each video project produced. Projects include a silent movie, claymation video, stop motion movie, time lapse video, suspense movie, and a music video. Students also learn how to apply professional special effects makeup and select costumes and wigs for their FWCTV segments and videos. Completion of this course gives a student a HS elective credit. Students interested in this class will participate in try-outs at the end of their 7th grade year.

Home Economics 7, 8 - Enrollment open to 7th and 8th grade students

The home economics course focuses on teaching Family Consumer Sciences from a Christian perspective. Units consist of child development, home and family living, a teen finance study, Christian character, nutrition, food service, cooking concepts and sewing basics. Students will cook a holiday meal for the faculty during the semester and sew a quilt. During the childcare unit students will take home a computerized “baby” to simulate what parenting involves.

Latin I - 8 Enrollment open all 8th grade students (High School Language Credit - requires 90% cumulative average)

Latin I is designed as an introduction to the basic structure and vocabulary of the Latin language. Students will develop skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Development of basic vocabulary and English derivatives will be emphasized. Classical culture and the history during the period of the kings will be introduced as well. Latin I falls under the Foreign Language category for high school. Latin I will follow the high school grading scale but will not calculate in the high school grade point average. Students will take semester exams but will not take nine weeks test.

Learning Lab (formerly Study Skills) 6, 7, 8 - Enrollment open to all students

This course is designed to help students develop and use study skills that will help them become successful learners. Daily activities will be tailored to fit the individual needs of each student. Students will learn various techniques that will be helpful to them throughout their academic years. Students will be allowed time in class to work on homework assignments and receive additional help on schoolwork, as needed. These components, as well as others, will be taught throughout the year: Time management and organization of materials, reading strategies and text structure, learning styles, note taking from a lecture and from text, goal setting related to academic study, memory, retention, and recall strategies, critical thinking skills, and clear and effective communication.

Seminar 6, 7, 8 - Enrollment open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students

Seminars are micro courses designed to connect the passions and talents of our staff with a small group of students in a highly relational framework. Each seminar will last for one nine weeks and meet every other day (either Tuesday/Thursday or Monday/Wednesday/Friday). During any semester when a student is enrolled in Seminar, they will be able to choose two seminars, one for each nine weeks. Examples of seminar topics include ethics, finance/home budgeting, intro to French, intro to German, world religions, servant leadership, and more. Specific seminar titles and availability will be announced in the summer.

Spanish I – 8 (High School Language credit - requires 90% cumulative average) - Enrollment open to 8th grade students who meet entrance requirements

This course is designed as an introduction to the basic structure and vocabulary of the Spanish language. Students begin to develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Emphasis is placed on the development of basic vocabulary and linguistic practice. Hispanic literature and culture will be introduced. Spanish I falls under the Foreign Language category for high school. Spanish I will follow the high school grading scale but will not calculate in the high school grade point average. Students will take semester exams but will not take nine weeks test.

Advanced Strings 7, 8 – Enrollment open to 7th and 8th grade students

This course is for the student with a good understanding of playing technique, notes on at least three strings and comfortable with part-playing. Emphasis will be on ear-training, learning to tune your own instrument, part-playing, and music theory. Skills learned will culminate into several performances throughout the year, which will include music of different styles and time periods. Opportunities to play solos will be offered at least once a year. Students are graded on participation, mastery of stated skills and proficiency on assigned pieces.

Theater 6, 7, 8- Enrollment open to all students

Theater class will focus on the skills and experience necessary for complete drama productions. Lighting, sound, staging, costumes, and sets design will all be included in this course. The theater class will produce several shorts shows each year, either shown during MS chapel or evening events.

World Drumming 6, 7, 8 - Enrollment open to all students

World drumming is a fine arts class designed to be an introduction to many different percussion instruments from around the world. It is a cross-cultural curriculum including, but not limited to, African, Latin American, Asian and American traditional drumming and percussion techniques. Students will use all of the traditional percussion instruments including snare drum, conga, hand drum, can drums, talking drums and mallet instruments. Students will be required to provide a pair of drum sticks and a practice pad. This class begins with the fundamentals and progresses to several live performances toward the end of the semester.