

2018-2019 Course Selection Guide



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. 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 spend one day each nine weeks organized by Bible class serving with local organizations. 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.

ATHLETICS

Students in seventh and eighth grades may participate in athletics. General sports available in the middle school are: football, basketball, cross-country, track and field, volleyball and soccer. All students are expected to adhere to the guidelines in the Athletic Handbook.

COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

The following courses may be taken for high school credit in eighth grade: Spanish I, Latin I, Algebra I, Digital Video (technology credit), and Advanced Art (fine arts elective). These classes do not calculate toward student's high school grade point average or class rank.

LIFE SKILLS PATHWAY

The core of the Fort Worth Christian Middle School Elective Program is our Life Skills Pathway (LSP). Among the many opportunities that students can take advantage of during their three years in middle school, there are five courses that we believe every student should experience. Those five courses are Computer, Performing/Fine Arts, Speech and Drama, Home Economics, and Personal Finance. First is our basic computer class. When we equip our students with a new computer in 6th grade, we want them to quickly gain the skills to utilize it with wisdom and efficiency. In this course, students will learn how to type well, manipulate text in a word processing program, create information in a presentation program, and work with data and numbers in a spreadsheet.

The second course in our LSP is our performing/fine arts elective. Each student must take either choir, band or strings for a minimum of one semester. This component of education promotes an experience in the fine arts, and research has shown the importance of music in brain development. Most students will fulfill these first two requirements in 6th grade. The third component of the LSP will be met during 7th grade - Speech and Drama. For many people, the idea of public speaking causes great anxiety, and while it is not necessary for every profession, the ability to communicate to an audience is a life skill that benefits everyone. We want each 7th grade student to gain the skills and practice the art of oral public presentation and to build on that skill in their future years.

The fourth course is, what we believe, to be a key component that each student should have and will give them great insight into providing for and running a home. Our Home Economics course meets this need. Each student will gain the skills to cook, do laundry, maintain a home budget, care for a newborn (just for a weekend - with a simulated, computerized baby), sew, and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The last component of the LSP is our newest course - Foundations in Personal Finance. This curriculum, based on a Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University and adapted for a middle school age, will teach students about personal finance responsibilities and Christian stewardship. We are the most financially blessed nation in the world, and we hope the financially educated youth of today will continue this positive trend. These last two courses will be taken during the 7th or 8th grade year.

6th Grade Core Classes

Bible 6

Bible study in sixth grade is a one-year survey of the entire Bible--all sixty-six books. It fits together the pieces of the story of the Bible. Like a road map, it provides middle school students with an aerial view of God's word and work in order to prepare the mind and heart for more detailed concepts that will come later.

English 6

English in sixth grade emphasizes the ability to incorporate the knowledge of grammar basics into writing. Students begin with an intensive review of parts of speech, usage and mechanics. Writing for a purpose provides practice of these skills and produces examples of descriptive, persuasive and informative writing. Students learn to follow the steps of the writing process and utilize peer and teacher evaluation to revise their writing. By the end of the year, students produce a multi-paragraph composition that includes both introductory and concluding paragraphs.

Geography 6

The foundation of geographical terms, themes and concepts is explored in Social Studies 6. Students will cover the five themes of geography and the five themes of social studies, while learning landform terminology, direction, relative and absolute location, time zones and map skills. The curriculum covers the globe as students learn the history and cultures of each continent and its people. Students will learn about the continents' and oceans' resources as well as the people who inhabit these areas - where they came from and who they are today. Students will use various tools for exploring the world such as textbooks, lecture, Internet, Google Earth, atlas/maps, video, music, and cultural parties. One of the main themes of this class is the more that people know about their world, the better equipped they will be to improve it.

Math 6

The primary focal points for Math in sixth grade are using ratios to describe proportional relationships involving integers, geometry, measurement, probability, and adding and subtracting decimals and fractions. More specifically, students will represent and use whole numbers, fractions, decimals and integers in a variety of equivalent forms including prime factorization, least common multiples, and comparing and ordering. Students will add, subtract, multiply and divide to solve problems and justify answers. Problems will be solved involving direct proportional relationships. Students will use letters as variables in mathematical expressions to describe how one quantity changes when a related quantity changes. Letters (variables) will be used to represent unknowns in equations. Angles, polygons and circles will be described using geometric vocabulary. Coordinate geometry will identify location of two dimensions. Experimental and theoretical probability will be used to make predictions. Students will solve multi-step problems using a plan and appropriate problem solving strategies and communicate about the mathematics through informal mathematical language. Logical reasoning will be used to make conjectures and verify conclusions.

Reading 6

Reading in sixth grade emphasizes learning strategies to improve reading rate, fluency, word meaning and comprehension. Instruction includes summarizing, making inferences and generalizations, determining main ideas, using context clues, making predictions and setting a purpose before reading. These skills are practiced in a variety of genres including short stories, poems, novels, plays and informational material. In addition, students identify literary elements and work on vocabulary development.

Science 6

Sixth grade Science focuses on investigating the cycles of nature that are evident in the main subject areas of geology, meteorology, and oceanography. Integrated in the course is an investigation of maps, a basic introduction to chemistry and laboratory research techniques.

Electives 6

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 6th grade students are during 8th period.

Important things to know:

- ❑ 6th grade electives typically meet on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule.
- ❑ Each 6th grade student must take a computer class and establish proficiency in typing, word processing, presentation software, and spreadsheets.
- ❑ Every MS student must take a Musical Performance class (Band, Choir, or Strings) in either 6th or 7th grade. We recommend this occurs in 6th.
- ❑ Study Skills may be repeated based on individual circumstances and will be heavily influenced by the responsibility and character of the student.

Available electives for sixth grade are:

Art	Robotics*
Beginning Band	Strings*
Beginning Choir	Theater*
Computer	
Study Skills*	

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

**The natural progression of band, choir and strings is to take the beginner class then move on to the advanced class, should the student want to continue with the same musical path.

7th Grade Core Classes

Athletics (1st period) - Enrollment open to all 7th and 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 enrolled in athletics will not be allowed to participate without a physical. Students are also expected to adhere to the Athletic Handbook.

Physical Education (1st period) - Enrollment open to all 7th and 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 PE 7 and 8 - Enrollment open to all 7th and 8th grade students

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 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) 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 nine weeks. 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.

Bible 7

The objective of seventh grade Bible is to help students build their personal spiritual foundation from the knowledge they have previously learned. Using the Bible, Wise Up, and studying the Sermon on the Mount, students learn wisdom and knowledge and develop a personal understanding of the scriptures. The students will discover practical guidance and direction from the scriptures for their lives today as well as for the future. Realistic situations will be used to guide them toward making application using God's word. Students find answers for themselves in Scripture, form personal convictions based on God's Word, and develop Christ-like character. Bible classes will be separated according to gender.

English 7

Students study a variety of poems, short stories and novels both in class and independently. The major reading selections include documentaries and classic and contemporary novels. Students are challenged with each reading to find truth and Christian Principles and understand how this can be applied in their own life spiritually. In addition, students focus on written compositions, grammar components, and spelling and vocabulary enrichment. A majority of their writing concentrates on writing formal essays with emphasis on developing thesis statements, organizing sentences, topic sentences and supporting details. Computers are used in the classroom for writing assignments and research projects. Grammar study includes a review of the eight parts of speech and progresses to the study of more complex sentence structure through the use of adjective, adverb and noun clauses in their writing while stressing usage and mechanics as well.

Math 7

The primary focus of seventh grade Math is to prepare students to be successful in eighth grade Pre-Algebra. Students will work on integers and algebra concepts, the Pythagorean Theorem, proportions, similarity and percent. In addition, students will analyze geometric concepts involving symmetry, the coordinate plane, area and volume. Students will also solve equations and inequalities and find the slope of lines. Moreover, students will graph quadratic and cubic functions, find the roots of monomials as well as multiply and divide monomials. Finally, students will be able to compute the mean, median, mode and range of a set of numbers. Experimental and theoretical probability will be used in order to make predictions based on the resulting data.

Pre-Algebra 7

****Students in this course have qualified by meeting performance measures in several areas. Students who have met the criteria will be offered an invitation to take this class and their progress will be monitored to insure appropriate placement and a successful Math path at Fort Worth Christian School.**

Students who qualify for Pre-Algebra in seventh grade demonstrate readiness for a faster pace of math instruction including a compacted and in depth study of pre-algebraic strategies. The primary focus of Pre-Algebra is to prepare students to be successful in Algebra. 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 7

Life Science is a full year course, which deals exclusively with living things. In this introductory biology course, students learn the diversity of living things, classifications, genetics and introduction to basic botany. The second half of the course explores the anatomy and physiology of the human body and how all the systems work together, in union, to maintain life. Lab experiences applying to all concepts are an integral part of this course.

Texas History 7

Seventh grade Texas History is a comprehensive study of the state of Texas from its beginnings to the present. Students will learn about Texas in greater depth and rigor than in grade four. The rich and culturally diverse background of Texas is examined through the eras including the Native Americans, European exploration through mission and settlement, colonization, revolution and statehood. Students regularly incorporate geography skills, think critically, use primary sources and interact in a collaborative environment creating and making presentations.

Electives 7

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 7th grade students are during 7th period and activity period. Most electives are designed to be taken only once. Important things to know:

- All students in 7th grade will be enrolled in Speech/Drama for one of their electives.
- Each 6th or 7th grade student must take a performing arts elective (either Band, Choir, or Strings) before the end of their 7th grade year.
- If you have a 90% or above average in 6th grade, you will be placed in Home Economics and Personal Finance during 7th grade as part of your fulfillment of the Life Skills elective pathway and in anticipation of your taking a HS credit elective in 8th grade

Electives for 7th grade include:

Art	Robotics
Advanced Band	Speech/Drama
Advanced Choir	Advanced Strings
Beginner Choir	Theater
Computer	World Drumming
Home Economics	Personal Finance
Intro to Spanish	Study Skills

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

**The natural progression of band, choir and strings is to take the beginner class then move on to the advanced class, should the student want to continue with the same musical path.

8th Grade Core Classes

Athletics (1st Period) - Enrollment open to all 7th and 8th grade students

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Physical Education 7 and 8 (1st Period) - Enrollment open to all 7th and 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 PE 7 and 8 - Enrollment open to all 7th and 8th grade students

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Algebra I (High school credit)Prerequisite 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, 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, separated by gender, 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.

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.

Honors English 8 (NOT a HS Credit Class)

****Students in this course have qualified by meeting performance measures in several areas. Students who have met the criteria will be offered an invitation to take this class and their progress will be monitored to insure appropriate placement and a successful English language path at Fort Worth Christian School.**

Honors English is a course designed to take a traditional English class and add challenging components in, making it on level with a Pre-AP or Honors class like you would see in high school. This course is designed so that students are specifically prepared to move into upper level AP and Honors level classes and are even more prepared to move into honors college programs. Instruction moves quickly into higher level thinking that includes critical thinking, analysis of assignments, more independent learning, with emphasizing a greater expectation for proficiency. Spring MAP scores, teacher evaluations, GPA, and writing samples will help determine whether or not you are placed into this course.

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

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.

Electives 8

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 8th period. Important things to know:

****Advanced Art is the only class that you can take in conjunction with another HS credit elective. For example, you can be in Latin I and Spanish I and take Advanced Art because they fall at two different class periods.****

Available electives for eighth grade are:

Digital Video	Study Skills
Spanish I	Advanced Strings
Latin I	Theater
Advanced Art	World Drumming
Advanced Choir	Robotics
Advanced Band	Personal Finance
Home Economics	Makerspace