

# Seventh Grade



## Bible

This year, we continue work in our *Fundamentals of the Faith* workbook by Dr. John MacArthur. This is essentially a systematic theology curriculum that walks students through 13 areas of theology using the Scriptures as its basis. This study begins with an in-depth look at the person and work of Christ and continues with topics such as the Holy Spirit, prayer, spiritual gifts, obedience, evangelism and guidance. In all aspects of seventh-grade course work, students are directed to consider God's Word and how it pertains to the topics, situations or worldviews presented in the curriculum, and to make spiritual/biblical applications wherever possible.

## Language Arts

As they continue in the Dialectic Stage of the classical model of education, students' critical thinking skills and higher-level reasoning are honed through writing analyses, evaluations, and responses to the various themes and elements of the seventh-grade core literature which includes a *Short Story Collection by Classic Authors*, *A Christmas Carol* by Dickens, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Taylor, *Hind's Feet on High Places* by Hurnard, and *Macbeth* by Shakespeare. Independent reading from the Junior High Classics Reading List is completed, along with free reading. Students are involved in a variety of writing experiences addressing different topics and writing styles including persuasive/ argumentative, expository and creative. As part of their studies, students continue working in *Vocabulary Workshop Level B* by Sadlier-Oxford, as this comprehensive grammar curriculum will help them transition into high school.

## History/Social Studies

Students explore God's unfolding narrative as it spans from Rome's downfall to 18th century Europe. Through a combination of reading

material, ethnic food days, museum trips, and films, students enjoy vicarious visits to almost every continent. In the midst of these delights, we must also taste some bitterness, as we learn what happens when God's image-bearers, created for eternity, instead live under the curse of sin and mortality. History is littered with conflicts, oppression, and war. Ultimately, however, through our study of empires and civilizations, students will see the pre-eminence of God's grace, and will behold in different cultures, the progression of the eclectic expression of all that which was seeded in Adam and Eve. As part of our study of American history, during either their seventh or eighth grade year, students have the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. with NorthCreek.

## Math

In seventh grade math, we continue to solidify basic arithmetic skills including working with integers, fractions, decimals and percents. We also spend some time in the geometry world, learning about angles, polygons and circles and finding the perimeter, area, surface area and volume of two- and three- dimensional figures. We also expand our knowledge of algebra by solving equations and inequalities, as well as applying those concepts and skills to problem solving situations.

## Science

As part of an exciting year in life science and as part of cementing our foundation, we begin our studies by looking at God's Word, before moving on to learn about cells, DNA, heredity, light, plants and animals. Seventh graders extract DNA, learn about heredity, make a 3-D cell model, debate the issue of evolution, and dissect various organs, plants and animals, all as part of learning more about the world that God has created. Students are involved in various labs, discussion times,



group and independent activities as well as being a part of NorthCreek Academy's science fair. The science fair often leads to our students participating in the County Science Fair, which is held in the spring. Every other fall, our seventh and eighth graders head to Mt. Hermon for a week of science, as part of Outdoor Science School.

## Logic

Informal logic is another way seventh graders work on their thinking skills. Studying logic is a vital component of the Dialectic Stage of the classical model of education, providing students with an opportunity to learn the rules by which we reason. This also builds on their abilities to discern truth from error, and gives them tools to be able to defend their faith. We learn about 28 separate fallacies— bad arguments— giving us insight into how one should *not* defend a position. Students discuss these in class and create a booklet defining and illustrating each of these common fallacies. Studying logic helps students to sharpen their own reasoning skills and to be more discerning when reading or listening to arguments and opinions that surround them via the media and the people in their lives.

## Health and Safety

In keeping with our desire to cultivate our students' hearts and minds in Christ, we host annual sessions on sex education, drug and alcohol awareness, and internet safety for our junior high students.