



8th Grade

Bible

Eighth grade is an important and formative time for students. The boys and girls are taught Bible by gender and with a smaller class size which allows for focused attention to be given to the study, application, and understanding of God's word. Eighth grade uses *Life of Christ: From the Gospel of John*, which looks in depth at Jesus Christ and his ministry. With the same journaling Bibles that NorthCreek 8th graders were gifted with back in sixth grade, students take a deep dive into the Gospel of John as they develop their knowledge of the Deity of Christ. With the goal of examining the character and attributes of God and Jesus, students memorize scripture, complete projects, and present findings, all while students develop their personal walk with the Lord and gain biblical equipping for navigating high school, and the messages of the world.

Language Arts

The Dialectic Stage in language arts is a time when students are "digging deeper" into the material, using critical thinking. Faith is integrated with learning, and students are encouraged to be good stewards of their God-given gifts and talents. Core literature, including: *The Miracle Worker*, *The Hiding Place*, and *The Screwtape Letters*, are read by the students and, at the end of the year, they read the unabridged version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as part of preparing and performing a student-led production of the play. Literature is discussed in a variety of ways, including dialectical journals, short answer essays, fishbowl discussions, and debate. As the eighth graders prepare for high school, they will receive experience in writing which includes persuasive, argumentative writing, expository writing, and response to literature writing. Vocabulary is taught both through literature, and through *Vocabulary Workshop Level C* by Sadlier-Oxford. Lessons are reinforced through daily usage, oral presentations, and creative writing, as well as through weekly assessments. Grammar usage

continues to be stressed in their writing, aiding them in their transition to high school. Students are expected to apply what they have learned, by using correct punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, and grammar in their writing.

History/Civics

In eighth-grade history, our focus is on the United States, from its earliest colonial roots in the 1600s, through its place on the world-stage of WWII, along with forays into current events. A sampling of aspects of the study of the U.S. includes: founding, expansion, civics and government, economics, leaders, wars, demographics and burgeoning cultural identity. An appreciation for, and an increasing involvement in U.S. citizenship, is a recurring and underlying theme for the year. This includes frequent and sustained references to Christianity being the foundation and source of any- and all- successes our nation, its citizens and its leaders have experienced! Students use their established knowledge and skills in research, oral participation, expressive written work, hands-on projects and role-playing. These studies, which integrate literature and science, prepare our students to be active and informed participants in our country's governance and future. During spring break of their eighth-grade year, students have the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. with their classmates to see the foundations of our Nation come to life.

Math

During eighth grade, students learn the concepts and skills of an Algebra 1 course, including the solving of equations, inequalities and systems, along with multiplying and factoring polynomials, and graphing and writing equations of lines and other functions. The focus of this final Academy year is on critical thinking, persevering in problem solving, and learning to find and generalize patterns. These skills prepare students for the rigors of high school mathematics.

Science

Each year in Junior High Science, students start by exploring the scriptural foundation of Creation, cementing the knowledge that God created the earth and is in complete control of His creation. In eighth grade, science comes to life as they delve into the various areas of physical science such as the structure of matter, atoms, chemistry, forces, outer space, and so much more. Students have opportunities to improve their critical thinking skills, participate in hands-on chemistry labs, and grow from cooperative learning opportunities. Our eighth-grade curriculum allows for our impressively equipped lab classroom to be used to its full potential. The Scientific Method is once again highlighted as students get creative and scientific as they share with the school community their 'Exploratorium' experiment, teaching others how through science, we can get excited about God's creation!

Logic

In eighth-grade logic, as part of the Dialectic Stage of classical education, students learn to defend their faith in a reasonable and rational way. We move from approaches to avoid in defending our positions, to learning techniques that will help us to support and defend our faith. We start with the common topics of definitions, testimony, comparison, relationship, and circumstance. This information benefits our students in their other subjects and assignments as they are able to use these techniques to support a thesis, or to improve a science fair hypothesis or as a foundation for building better arguments in debate. After learning how to build and defend arguments, the students progress to studying formal logic, where they learn how to construct three-statement syllogisms and how to determine whether their syllogisms are valid. The fundamental reason logic is taught is to help students learn to think critically.

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.