

Junior High Course Description Guide

ART DEPARTMENT

Art 7-8

This one-semester course introduces the basic art elements and how they relate to the principles of design. It contains just the right amount of T.L.C. as students learn to TALK about art, LOOK at art, and CREATE art. A variety of tools, techniques and media will be used to explore the making and meaning of art. Students learn to express ideas and feelings in creative ways as they develop, explore and sharpen observational skills that give God the glory and lead to a deeper appreciation of God's creation.

COMPUTER SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

Computer 7-8

This one-semester course lays a foundation on how to use the computer in school. It begins with the basics of word processing, PowerPoint, online research. Students will learn how to develop projects and make basic presentations with the help of technology. Students also gain a basic understanding of proper network and internet usage. This class meets one time per week.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

7th Grade Language Arts

This course has two parts – Reading and Vocabulary. The reading course covers over 20 short stories, 5 novels, and a unit on poetry. Students work on developing their reading comprehension skills, literary terms, author techniques, and their reaction to topics within stories. The vocabulary units consist of hundreds of words throughout the year. Attention is on definition, proper use, and correct spelling.

8th Grade Language Arts

This course teaches reading skills, comprehension, and vocabulary. It also includes spelling words every week. Students will learn through reading short stories and nonfiction about literary terms like personification, irony, point of view, setting, mood, characterization, and inferences. The novels that students read are The Call of the Wild, The Pearl, Across Five Aprils, and The Diary of Anne Frank.

7th Grade English

This course is grammar intensive. It focuses on the main parts of speech, sentence structure, mechanics, punctuation and the like. In addition to going through the course textbook, there are several writing assignments designed to develop writing skills. An emphasis is placed on both creativity and correct grammar.

8th Grade English

This course teaches both grammar and writing units to prepare students for high school English. Grammar units include sentence structure, nouns, pronouns, verbs, modifiers, mechanics, and prepositions. Writing units include writing a comparison/contrast report, a persuasive essay, and a descriptive paragraph. Sentence diagramming is included with the grammar units.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Basic Math

As the course name suggests, basic math concepts and operations are stressed and practiced. Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers are reviewed. Basic geometric shapes, finding perimeter and circumference, finding area and volume, types of angles, and parts of a circle are learned as preparation for geometry. The use of ratios, proportions and percents are also learned.

General Math

This course is designed to prepare students for the study of algebra. Basic arithmetic of whole numbers and decimals are taught. Students will learn how to solve word problems, ratio problems, basic perimeter and area problems, and using fractions. Basic algebraic concepts are introduced that include solving equations, functions, and factoring. Upon completion of this course, students will be ready to take Pre-Algebra.

Pre-Algebra

This course is designed as a transition course from arithmetic to algebra. It is designed for those students ready for algebra but not for the rigors of Algebra 1. Successful completion of this course insures total preparation for algebra.

Algebra 1

Algebra is a branch of mathematics that is an important stepping stone to higher mathematics and very useful in today's technological workplace. This course develops basic algebraic concepts in a problem solving and systematic way; turning arithmetic into Algebra by using letters to represent unknown numbers, and continue to find the unknown numbers through algebraic and graphical means. Topics include: A review of algebraic concepts, solving one variable equations, functions, finding and using linear equations and inequalities, to solve problems, finding and using quadratic equations, to solve problems, graphs of equations, solving systems of equations, rational and radical expressions and equations, studying polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic equations and their graphs, basic trigonometry, matrices, one and two variable statistics and probability.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

7th and 8th Grade

This course develops the student's knowledge of basic music theory and singing. A selection of hymns and religious songs are memorized throughout the school year. The class sings periodically at church services and concerts.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

7th Grade P.E.

This course will teach students how to play various team sports including volleyball, basketball, softball, soccer, and track. Other units include fitness testing monthly, taeko, and golf. Students will learn basic skills of the activities, will improve their overall fitness level, and learn the rules of the games that they play.

8th Grade P.E.

This course will teach students about other sports that can be played outside of school. Games include football, handball, hockey, tumbling, bowling, and ultimate frisbee. Students will also be tested monthly on their physical fitness level. Students will learn the basic strategies and skills of each game. Emphasis is on social interaction between classmates and learning to play as a team.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

7th Grade Religion

This course makes use of our synod's Christlight program and the Bible to explore such topics as the comfort we have as saved children of God, our purpose in life, how to keep growing in our faith, how to use our God-given gifts and blessings to serve God and others, and how our faith can help us as we deal with our earthly troubles. Several lessons focus on how to get along better with our family, our friends, those of other races or cultures, and those of varying gifts, interests, or beliefs. A unit of lessons also focuses on what Christians can say to show their faith when confronted by various temptations or given opportunities to share their faith.

8th Grade Religion

This course studies the books of 1 and 2 Peter. These two books encourage us as Christians to stand firm in our faith even when temptations try to take us away from our Savior. We also look at the Christ Light topical books. We learn what God wants us to do when we are tempted, afraid of the future, and clash with our parents or other family members. We study what God has to say about issues in society which include abortion, euthanasia, and homosexuality. We also study how to make God – pleasing decisions about dating choices, music, television, and our money.

Catechism 7-8

This course is taught by our pastors twice a week. Students will learn about the basic teachings of our church. The six chief parts of Luther's Catechism are taught. They are the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, Ministry of Keys and Confession, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

7th Grade (Life Science)

This course focuses on life science. Topics covered are the use of the scientific method, how scientists classify living things, the make-up of cells, viruses and bacteria, protists and fungi, plants, invertebrates, vertebrates, and the human body. Laboratory activities are included as appropriate.

8th Grade (Earth Science)

This required course surveys the physical characteristics of the earth. Topics include origin of the earth, properties of the earth, changes in the surface of the earth, waters of the earth, weather, climate and astronomy. An emphasis will be placed on understanding, acquiring and applying Earth Science principles. Students will be introduced to proper and safe laboratory procedures through activities and experiments that apply to the topic being studied.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

7th Grade History

This course is a survey of world history from ancient times to the modern age. The course includes the study of ancient civilizations of Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Sumeria. The modern history starts after the fall of the Roman Empire and includes the study of the Byzantines, Muslims, Crusades, Age of Exploration, Age of Reason, Renaissance, Reformation, and the Age of Imperialism.

8th Grade History

This course is a study of American history. Students ride the timeline of the history of the United States with many stops along the way. Detailed study of the following is included: age of the explorers, Native American culture, Revolutionary period, the Constitution of the United States, the Civil War, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, Vietnam, the Cold War, and the Presidencies of Reagan, Bush, Clinton, and Bush. Students work on several projects throughout the year.