



Twin Oaks
Christian School

Middle School: 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Curriculum Guide

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MIDDLE SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

Mission

Twin Oaks Christian School exists to glorify God by nurturing spiritual development, academic excellence, and servant leadership in an environment where each student is known and loved.

Philosophy

It is our goal to actively encourage and develop the relationship of the teacher to student, student to student, and most importantly, student to Jesus Christ in the middle school setting. Thus, TOCS works to disciple our students educationally, spiritually, and socially so that in all of our actions and attitudes we might image Jesus Christ. As we develop an atmosphere of holy love for our students, their families and for one another, students feel secure and build a life-long foundation to strive for excellence to glorify God in all they do.

Curriculum

At the Middle School level, the core curriculum of Bible, history, language arts, math and science continues to emphasize instruction that allows students to see the world from a Biblical perspective and challenges them to develop their gifts for God's glory. Co-curricular courses provide opportunities to develop other intelligences in art, physical education, and Spanish. Nine-week exploratory courses in computer applications, and life skills supplement the core curriculum to round out instruction. Additionally, classes schedule field trips, class retreats, service projects, and social events to enhance student learning and community.

Service and Leadership

An attitude toward service and leadership is an important aspect of learning for middle school students. This is why our middle school students serve both the student body and assist local families in need. We begin our 7th grade year with an overnight retreat to build relationships between teachers and students to lay a foundation for the year. 8th grade begins with the Alpine Tower experience to encourage students to overcome their fears and hesitations. We utilize the opportunity for off-campus education with field trips, service projects, and off-campus, age-appropriate social events for our students. A number of on-campus service leadership opportunities are integrated throughout our Bible curriculum for students to serve their school community. These opportunities are offered to our students to foster spiritual development and to build community within the class.

BIBLE

Philosophy

The Bible curriculum assists students in knowing and understanding God's Word and world through a biblical and Reformed worldview, striving to nurture the whole child in preparation for service in His Kingdom.

Core Content

Reading the Bible properly | Tools of interpretation | Cultures in Biblical times | Essay writing | Stories of the faith | Personal testimonies | Big Story of the Bible | Old Testament Survey | Ancient and modern Hebrew feasts | Proverbs | Four Gospels | Life and ministry of Jesus Christ | Book of Acts | Early church history | Spiritual disciplines |

Sequence

6th-Overview of the Old Testament--*Walking with God and His People*, Christian Schools International, 2010.

In 6th grade we focus on the basics and the beginnings. Much time is spent focusing on the overall Big Story of the Bible: Creation, Rebellion, Redemption, Restoration. They focus also on the covenant God makes with his people, and the various ways that covenant expands and grows. Scripture memory is based upon the Big Story and the covenant and then diving deeper into extended passages in Proverbs and the Psalms. We also look at the broad history of the people of Israel from the garden to the return from exile before taking our time looking at the various Jewish festivals of the Old Testament and then understanding and applying the book of Proverbs.

7th-The Gospels--*Bible Truths for Christian Schools: Learning from the Life of Christ*. BJU Press, 2006.

The content of this course is based on material from the four Gospels. Each unit of the text reveals a different aspect of Christ's life and teaching. The class is meant to help the student conform to the image of Christ presented in the Gospels. Students learn that it is by Christ alone that they have the strength to live out their Christian lives. In light of this, each lesson emphasizes a character quality the student is to cultivate, an action he is to perform, or a truth he is to believe. The year culminates with a personal faith story project for students to reflect on God's faithfulness in their lives.

8th-New Testament, Acts and the Early Church, and Spiritual Disciplines--*Walking with God and His People*, Christian Schools International, 2010

The culmination of our Bible curriculum examines the New Testament beginning in the book of Acts and Paul's missionary journeys, and briefly surveys the rest of the NT. The course then focuses on spiritual disciplines, helping the students to know how and why faith applies to their daily lives. At the end of the year the class studies Church history and early Christian leaders. The class features a

six-week journaling project on the Fruit of the Spirit. Students seek to put their learning about spiritual disciplines into practice through the power of the Spirit.

MATHEMATICS

Philosophy

Mathematics is a language that allows us to identify and explain the order and patterns in the world. There is a discipline to accurate mathematics computation but also a deeper, conceptual understanding of how numbers are interrelated. Students study God's creation so that they may better understand and care for this world which He has given us. Math is factual and unchanging and gives us a good sense of God's unchanging truth and love and care for us.

Core Content

Operations with whole numbers, integers, variables, fractions, percents, and decimals | Volume, mass, surface area | Square roots | Statistics and Probability | Pythagorean Theorem | Slope-Intercept Formula | Properties and Axioms | Factoring polynomials | Quadratic Equations | Graphing Linear and Quadratic Equations

Sequence

6th Math - Maneuvering the Middle, 2021

This student centered course follows a logical sequence from the breakdown of our number system including rational numbers, to integer operations, percents, expressions, equations and inequalities, algebraic representations, geometry and data and statistics. We are careful to provide hands-on experiences as well as scaffolding for each concept so that students may connect new concepts to previous learning. Students are further challenged through computer-based learning to work at their own level and progress weekly on a personalized math journey. Likewise, students are challenged to use precise mathematical terminology in their speaking and writing. Review and testing measures reinforce and aid retention of frequently used fundamental concepts.

7th Math - Maneuvering the Middle, 2021

This course introduces students to algebraic concepts such as using variables, numbers and operations with the decimal system, equations and inequalities, and linear relationships. Our second semester focuses on geometry and includes angle relationships, surface area and volume, the pythagorean theorem and more. Students are further challenged through computer-based learning to work at their own level and progress weekly on a personalized math journey. Likewise, students are

challenged to use precise mathematical terminology in their speaking and writing. Review and testing measures reinforce and aid retention of frequently used fundamental concepts.

8th-Algebra I--*Maneuvering the Middle*, 2021

This course sets the foundation for higher mathematics courses. Our 6th - 8th curriculum combines 6th, 7th, 8th and Algebra curricula into three years with scaffolded concepts that build toward a working mastery of algebraic skills and develop methodology for problem solving. The first part of the 8th grade year focuses on our number system and equations and inequalities and moves into linear relationships and linear functions. This leads to the study of systems, exponents and polynomials. Finally, we factor polynomials, solve quadratic functions and use the quadratic formula to solve equations. We often work in small groups and utilize algebra tiles when helpful. Finally, each student is enrolled in an online program in addition to our curriculum to allow them to move at their own pace to help them fully grasp the concepts covered.

HISTORY

Philosophy

The goal of our history curriculum is to give students an appreciation of how God uses His people in events through time as He wills in order to live as God's hands and feet.

Core Content

Countries and cultures of the world | Historical method | Cultural intelligence | Ancient civilizations | Features of a civilization | Essay writing and argumentation | African history | Asian history | Renaissance and Reformation | World religions | South American history | America's founding | United States Constitution | Declaration of Independence | Major crises of American history | American ideals | States and Capitals |

Sequence

6th-Ancient History--*Heritage Studies 6*, BJU Press, 2012

6th Grade Heritage Studies lays a strong foundation for the remainder of a student's middle school history education. Students examine ancient civilizations throughout the world and seek to understand their culture. Students study the societal makeup, historical importance and biblical connections through the rise and fall of each civilization. This course begins with the origins of Sumer and Mesopotamia and progresses through civilizations in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe.

Along the way, students assess what makes the strengths and weaknesses of each civilization and the cultural similarities and differences between the civilizations. The course ends with a study on the Renaissance Era and The Reformation.

7th-World Studies--*Global Studies 7, BJU Press, 2016; supplemental novels*

7th Grade World Studies explores three key facets of the subject: History, geography, and culture. In other words, students examine major events throughout history seeking to understand their causes; they will study the map of the world to understand where these events have taken place; and they will evaluate the various cultures found in each time and place. In this course, students pick up where they left off in 6th grade and survey world history from the origins of the Mongol Empire in the vast steppes of central asia to the desolate no-man's land of the battlefields of World War I. Among other topics, the course also studies medieval African kingdoms, Central American empires, the Age of European exploration, the beginning of the modern missions movement, the Enlightenment, and the French Revolution.

8th-United States History--*The American Republic, BJU Press, 2017*

From the historical foundations built in 6th and 7th grade, our 8th grade is ready to study the causes for the founding of the United States. Having studied facets of world history the previous two years, 8th grade studies are brought closer to their context so they might understand the world and country in which God has sovereignly placed them. This course examines what caused the United States' founding, what it means to be an American, and the major events and ideals that have shaped America's national story. The course finds its capstone in a week-long trip to Washington D.C. where students explore the museums and monuments that tell America's story.

SCIENCE

Philosophy

The goal of the science classes at Twin Oaks is to provide opportunity for rigorous exploration of science concepts within a program. Students investigate our world through a biblical lens, using principles of science to more fully understand God as Creator.

Core Content

Diversity of organisms | Organic structures and life processes | Design of Earth | organisms and environments | Changes on Earth | Energy transformed and transferred | Measuring energy | Global climate changes | States of matter | Human dominion and stewardship | Human body systems | Cellular structures | Chemical reactions |

Sequence:

6th- Modules: *Cells, Heredity and Genetics, Astronomy, The Scientific Method. Prentice Hall. 2002*

Sixth grade students begin the school year building their understanding of the classification of living things. They explore the structure of a cell and how it enables life's functions. They then use their knowledge of cells to understand heredity and genetics to assess what makes organisms different from one another. Finally, they will learn how the Earth is ideal for supporting life. They strengthen

their understanding of our solar system and the qualities of the Earth in comparison to other planets and space structures.

7th- Modules: *Environmental Science, Electricity and Magnetism, Human Biology and Health. Prentice Hall. 2002*

Seventh grade students begin the school year investigating the interaction of living things with their environments. They will explore ways human action impacts our world and will develop and defend a reasonable solution to a significant environmental issue. Students will then examine the properties of electricity and magnetism and will discover how they are related to one another. Finally, they will learn how the human body's organ systems are intricately linked to perform all vital functions.

8th- Modules: *Weather and Climate, Chemical Interactions, Motion, Forces, and Energy. Prentice Hall, 2002*

In eighth grade, students begin the year exploring the topic of energy, discovering how it changes into its various forms. They then examine how energy drives all of Earth's weather patterns and their subsequent impact on living things. Students trace changes in the structure of matter result from energy transformations through chemical reactions. Finally, they investigate how energy transfer leads to forces between objects and their resulting motion. Students apply these concepts as they design and build a unique invention to solve an everyday problem.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Philosophy

The goal of the Language Arts curriculum is to foster development of a skill set which includes critical and creative thinking, reading, writing, speaking, listening, and developmentally appropriate grammar usage. Students are then equipped to glorify God and to demonstrate the gospel to the world through their understanding and expression of language.

Core Content

Divergent and convergent thinking | Close reading of quality, complex texts | Etymology and morphology | Daily grammar practice | Study of characteristics and elements of various genres of literature | Process writing | Public speaking | Independent reading |

Sequence

6th-Easy Grammar, Growing Your Vocabulary, various novels, short stories, poems, and nonfiction works

In sixth grade, students are introduced to the various genres of fiction and nonfiction literature and read a variety of written works from across the spectrum of genres. These well-written pieces of literature serve as models for the students' own writing and help them to build vocabulary, alongside the etymology curriculum. A particular focus is placed on the primary elements of literature such as setting, plot, characterization, and mood which the students explore through the pieces they read in class. The literary pieces chosen allow the students to begin to interact with deeper themes and lessons as well. In writing, the students learn to write well-crafted paragraphs which they can tailor to express their ideas as well as to share information. This skill is used as the basis for writing essays. A research project helps the students learn how to locate and use various online and print resources and introduces them to MLA format and parenthetical citations. Opportunities to express oneself through various types of writing are woven throughout the coursework.

7th-Easy Grammar, Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots, various novels, short stories, poems, and nonfiction works

In seventh grade literature, students build on the skills they acquired in sixth grade by considering story arc, internal and external conflicts, and point of view. Close reading and deep analysis, as well as thoughtful discussion, are employed as the students approach pieces of literature from varying genres throughout the year. Literature pieces are carefully selected to help build the students' vocabulary and writing skills, alongside their etymology and grammar instruction, and also to tie into the content of other subject areas. Students in seventh grade continue to build their writing skills to allow them to produce pieces that support a clear purpose and include a cohesive organization of ideas by using evidence from literary and informational texts. There is a specific focus placed on inviting introductions and compelling conclusions for individual paragraphs as well as for entire essays. In the area of research skills, students learn how to choose good sources and how to evaluate them for reliability and relevance. Throughout the year students are presented with the opportunity to exercise their writing skills through a variety of writing activities and assignments including participation in the Grannie Annie writing competition.

8th-Easy Grammar, Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots, various novels, short stories, plays, poems, and nonfiction works

In preparation for high school and beyond, students in eighth grade read and respond to significant works of literature and examine how modern works of fiction draw on traditional themes and characters. Given informational text, students read critically the arguments and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the author's evidence is reasoned and is sufficient in addressing conflicting evidence and viewpoints as well as learning how to evaluate it for bias. Eighth grade students produce

clear and coherent texts appropriate to their task, purpose, and audience. They connect their reading to their writing by drawing evidence from literary and informational texts when writing analyses through essays and short research projects. A focus is placed on communicating clearly and thoughtfully in written and spoken mediums. Students also continue to develop their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary through regular instruction and practice. These grammar and vocabulary skills are used as the students develop the skill of writing claim-support-analysis essays.

CO-CURRICULARS and EXPLORATORIES

Philosophy

Twin Oaks offers co-curricular and exploratory classes to expand students' knowledge of topics not addressed elsewhere in the curriculum. Classes cover the subjects of fine arts, practical arts, social development, and personal health and wellness. These classes are an opportunity for students to promote and explore their other intelligences to God's glory.

CO-CURRICULAR CLASSES

Art

7th-All year; weekly

8th-All year; weekly

Spanish

7th-All year; weekly

8th-All year; weekly

Physical Education

7th-8th-All year; twice weekly.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

7th

Passion Project/Interpersonal Relationships

Computer Applications

Drama

Young Entrepreneurs

8th

Passion Project/Peacemakers

Computer Applications

Drama

Worldviews