

GILBERT CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Serving our Lord one student at a time



2019-2020
Gilbert Christian Middle School
Course Catalog

Revised: July 2019

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

ART

MS students receive weekly Art instruction.

BIBLE

Bible is required each year of middle school, as well as participation in a discipleship group during Omega Hour.

ENGLISH

English is required each year of middle school.

FINE ARTS

A weekly strings or music appreciation class is required in Grade 6. Strings or choir is required in Grades 7 and 8. All students take a visual arts class at GCMS once per week.

MATHEMATICS

Math is required each year of middle school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is required each year of middle school.

SCIENCE

Science is required each year of middle school.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies is required each year of middle school.

TECHNOLOGY

MS students receive weekly technology instructions.

BIBLE

Bible is required each year of middle school.

BIBLE106: BIBLE

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

This course for sixth-grade students features inductive Bible study methods while covering the lives of Joseph and Joshua. This is a step up from the upper elementary children's precept studies. *"Students will learn how to rise above their circumstances and live victoriously through the power of knowing that God is with them. . . even when their dreams are shattered through learning life-altering truths about God's sovereignty in the midst of adversity, how to handle injustice, and how a young man and woman can keep their ways pure."* (*Precepts International, Joseph*). Then, through the Joshua study, students will interpret, observe, and apply the book of Joshua as they see a man who was strong and courageous despite trials. Finally, students will learn to apply these biblical lessons to their lives as they learn to be courageous within the framework of the character and leadership program: *The Protectors Freedom from Bullying: Courage, Character, and Leadership for Life*.

BIBLE107: BIBLE- YEAR 1

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7

This course examines the **Old Testament** books using verse-by-verse inductive study methods, lecture and class discussion. This course will yield both an understanding of the text as well as an improved ability for self-study in God's Word. Semester project demonstrating inductive Bible study skills required as final exam. Curriculum: The Gospel Project, Telling God's Story: Biblical Narrative From Beginning to End; By: Preben Vang & Terry G. Carter

BIBLE108: BIBLE-YEAR 2

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 8

This course examines the **New Testament** books through verse-by-verse inductive study methods, lecture and class discussion. This course will yield both an understanding of the text as well as an improved ability for self-study in God's Word. Semester project demonstrating inductive Bible study skills required as final exam. Semester project demonstrating inductive Bible study skills required as final exam. Curriculum: The Gospel Project, Telling God's Story; Biblical Narrative From Beginning to End; By: Preben Vang & Terry G. Carter

ENGLISH

English is required each year of middle school.

ENG106: ENGLISH

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

This course uses the Shurley English curriculum and promotes student literacy through a logical, sequential, and systematic review and practice of grammar, reading, vocabulary, and writing. Analytical thinking is encouraged and practiced through both independent and group literature studies, as well as targeted comprehension strategies through the *MosDos Pearl* curriculum. Writing focuses on narrative, informative, descriptive, and argument, which enable students to build skills in order to be successful in middle school and high school.

ENG107: ENGLISH

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7

Through 7th Grade English Language Arts, students examine the elements of literature through short stories, poetry, and novels as they explore text complexity. Students are encouraged to increase their critical thinking skills through reflective writing and discussion of texts, both literature and informative writing. Composition concentrates on analytical informative writing complemented with personal narratives, descriptive writing, research, and persuasive essays to include a variety of shorter and longer assignments. Vocabulary and grammar instruction focus on preparation for the SAT.

ENG207: HONORS ENGLISH
PREREQUISITES: INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL
GRADE LEVEL: 7

1 YEAR

Honors 7th Grade English Language Arts provides additional challenge for students who would like to increase their proficiency in reading and writing. In addition to the standard unit of study for the 7th grade English course, students in Honors English will acquire advanced reading and writing strategies in order to foster more critical thinking and comprehension skills. Additional novel studies and writing assignments challenge students to go beyond the scope of the general course of study. Formal writing workshops and participation in group reading and discussion will be key elements of class instruction. Advanced vocabulary and grammar practice are incorporated into writing activities with the possibility of publication for creative writing assignments. Students in the honors program need a high level of responsibility and motivation to be successful and will be qualified based on these criteria: Teacher recommendation of student's maturity, work ethic, 6th grade English scores in both composition and ELA rotation, ACT Aspire scores, and parent permission to take honors.

ENG108: ENGLISH
PREREQUISITES: NONE
GRADE LEVEL: 8

1 YEAR

Through 8th Grade English Language Arts, students examine the elements of literature through short stories, poetry, and novels as they explore text complexity. Students are encouraged to increase their critical thinking skills through reflective writing and discussion of texts, both literature and informative writing. Composition concentrates on persuasive writing complemented with personal narratives, descriptive writing, research, and informative essays to include a variety of shorter and longer assignments. Vocabulary and grammar instruction focus on preparation for the SAT.

ENG208: HONORS ENGLISH
PREREQUISITES: INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL
GRADE LEVEL: 8

1 YEAR

Honors 8th Grade English Language Arts provides additional challenge for students who would like to increase their proficiency in reading and writing. Along with the general English course work which includes grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing, and literature, Honors students will acquire advanced skills that foster critical thinking and comprehension. Students will study classical literature in whole group and small group settings. Students in the honors program need a high level of responsibility and motivation to be successful. Participation in honors is based on these criteria: Teacher recommendation, work ethic, 7th grade English scores, ACT Aspire scores, and parent permission to take honors.

ART

MS students receive art instruction weekly.

ART108: ART
PREREQUISITES: NONE
GRADE LEVEL: 6-8

1 YEAR

In a positive and God glorifying atmosphere, the student's creative spirit and thought processes are nurtured and developed. Creative problem solving is an attitude as well as a skill that is strongly encouraged in art projects, but carries over to every subject and every challenge our students will encounter. Artistic skills are developed through creative, hands-on training in the elements of art, the study of artists and their styles, and exposure to a variety of media and methods.

FINE ARTS

A weekly strings or music appreciation class is required in 6th grade. Strings or choir is required in Grades 7th and 8th.

MUP106: MUSIC APPRECIATION
PREREQUISITES: NONE
GRADE LEVEL: 6

1 YEAR

Music Appreciation is a hands-on, interactive course designed to help students explore a variety of musical instruments and ideas while expressing praise to God. The curriculum encourages students to become educated consumers of the arts and gives

them the tools they need to succeed in 7th grade performance ensembles. All lessons taught from a Christian worldview emphasizing God's gift of music as a way to bring Him in all of life.

MUP107B: YOUTH MEN'S CHORUS

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

Men's Chorus is a non-auditioned performing ensemble made up of 7th and 8th grade boys. Students will participate in a rigorous choral curriculum focused on music literacy, vocal technique, and presentation skills. This choir is a good fit for students who have a casual interest in singing or enjoy a moderately paced learning environment. Students in this group will be introduced to vocal performance and taught foundational musical skills. All GCS singers also learn about good rehearsal technique, study strategies, self-discipline, excellence, teamwork, and respect from a Christian worldview. No prior experience is necessary. Designated performance apparel is required, and students are required to participate in choral events throughout the academic year. All members have the option to audition for a spot in Encore (an elite group of young performers—both boys and girls—who train after school to take their singing to a more competitive level).

MUP108G: YOUTH WOMEN'S CHORUS

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

Vivace is a non-auditioned performing ensemble made up of 8th grade girls. Students participate in a rigorous choral curriculum focused on music literacy, vocal technique, and presentation skills. All GCS singers also learn about good rehearsal technique, study strategies, self-discipline, excellence, teamwork, and respect from a Christian worldview. No prior experience is necessary. Designated performance apparel is required, and students are required to participate in choral events throughout the academic year. All members have the option to audition for a spot in Encore (an elite group of young performers—both boys and girls—who train after school to take their singing to a more competitive level).

STR106: CADET ORCHESTRA – STRINGS (Agritopia Campus only)

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

The training provided in fifth-grade Orchestra continues in this course. Students receive instruction in music reading skills, production of a good tone, bowing, and left-hand techniques. Attendance at two scheduled performances is mandatory and part of the required class work, as is appropriate concert attire. Weekly practice charts and regular playing tests in class are part of the grade. This course meets twice a week for one middle school class period. Students must provide their own instrument.

STR107: INTERMEZZO ORCHESTRA- BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE STRINGS (Agritopia Campus only)

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN INSTRUMENT FOR THIS COURSE

Intermediate Orchestra provides students with learning and performance opportunities on violin, viola, cello and bass. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of basic skills learned in sixth grade orchestra which are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in 4 required performances per year, and smaller performance opportunities in class and around the GCS community.

STR108: ADVANCED CONCERT ORCHESTRA (Agritopia Campus only)

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF STUDY ON CURRENT INSTRUMENT OR EVIDENCE OF ADEQUATE PREPARATION AS DETERMINED BY INSTRUCTOR

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN INSTRUMENT FOR THIS COURSE

Concert Orchestra provides students with learning and performance opportunities on violin, viola, cello and bass. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of basic skills learned in Intermezzo Orchestra which are necessary for effective instrumental music performance, focusing on preparation for HS Orchestra. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in 4 required performances per year, and smaller performance opportunities in class and around the GCS community.

Band107-1: GREEN BAND (Greenfield Campus only)

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8**

Green Band is a non-auditioned performing ensemble made up of 7th & 8th grade students. Students participate in a rigorous Band & Musical curriculum focused on music literacy, instrument technique, and presentation skills. All GCS performers also learn about good rehearsal technique, study strategies, self-discipline, excellence, teamwork, and respect from a Christian worldview. No prior experience is necessary. Designated performance apparel is required, and students are required to participate in band events throughout the academic year. All members have the option to audition for a spot in Gold Band, (a band designed for more experienced band musicians that are continuing on the instrument that they have already played), before the beginning of school or within the first week of school.

MATHEMATICS

Math is required each year of middle school. Placement tests and teacher recommendations will be used to place students at appropriate levels.

MAT106: MATH

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 6**

This course uses the Singapore approach to math through the research-based *Math in Focus* curriculum which balances conceptual understanding, visual learning, and problem-solving through classroom learning, discussion, and practice. The following place value concepts are practiced and further developed: positive and negative numbers, fractions, decimals, ratios, rates, and percents. In addition, these algebraic concepts will be further introduced: expressions, equations, and inequalities. In the second semester, geometrical concepts will be further developed including: surface area of polygons and circles, volume of solids. Finally, statistics will be further explored.

MAT107: MATH

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 7**

This is a comprehensive math course that prepares students to enter Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1. Units of study include: Proportional Reasoning, Percents, Integers, Fractions, Algebraic Expressions, Algebraic Equations and Inequalities, Geometric Figures, Measuring Figures, Probability, and Statistics. Each student in seventh grade will be placed at the appropriate level of math based on placement tests and teacher recommendations.

***MAT109: PRE-ALGEBRA**

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: PLACEMENT FOR 7TH GRADE OR LOWER BASED ON TEACHER APPROVAL***GRADE LEVEL: 8**

This is a comprehensive math course that prepares students to enter high school Algebra 1 and high school Geometry, based on high school sequence. Units of study include: Exponents, Equations in One Variable, Equations in Two Variables, Functions, Triangle and the Pythagorean Theorem, Transformations, Congruence and Similarity, Volume and Surface Area, and Statistics and Probability. Each student in seventh and eighth grade will be placed at their appropriate level of math based on placement tests and teacher recommendations.

MAT210: ALGEBRA I *

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: PLACEMENT IS BASED ON TEACHER APPROVAL***GRADE LEVEL: 9**

Attention will be given to solving math problems with and without technology. Algebra builds off of Pre-Algebra and further develops algebraic thinking. This will be demonstrated in manipulating expressions and equations in various forms to identify characteristics on a graph or in written form. Students will also explore and learn linear expressions, equations, and inequalities with application in linear systems. For the remainder of the year, students will explore and learn quadratic expressions and equations, exponential equations, and rational expressions and equations, followed by an introduction to probability and statistics.

MAT211: GEOMETRY *

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: MAT210 & PLACEMENT IS BASED ON TEACHER APPROVAL***GRADE LEVEL: 10**

Using the concepts from Algebra, this course investigates geometric definitions, theorems, and postulates to find angle and segment measures with and without the coordinate plane. This course is highly logical, visual, and spatial. It includes topics of reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, and relationships of triangles; in particular, congruent, similar, and right triangles. Investigation will also be provided to learn the properties of polygons, quadrilaterals, area, volume, and circles. Each quarter will have its own project to extend the learning in the course.

*Teacher recommended and approval based on achievement, work ethic, participation, and responsibility.

** These courses will receive a high school credit and will be calculated in their overall high school GPA

TECHNOLOGY

MS students receive weekly technology instructions.

TECH106: TECHNOLOGY

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 6**

The goal of technology 6 is designed to prepare them for upper middle school coursework, and help students to be wise stewards of technology as Christians. Practice time for keyboarding speed and fluency will be part of their curriculum. Students will develop a foundation of computer science knowledge and learn new approaches to problem solving and critical thinking. Technology 06 students will become innovative, collaborative creators and ethical, responsible users of computing technology to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to thrive in a technology-driven society from a Christian worldview.

TECH107/108: TECHNOLOGY

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 7/8**

The goal of technology 7/8 is designed to prepare them more for advanced skills needed for high school coursework, and help students to be wise stewards of technology as Christians. Students will develop a foundation of computer science knowledge and learn new approaches to problem solving and critical thinking. Technology 07/ 08 students will become innovative, collaborative creators and ethical, responsible users of computing technology to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to thrive in a technology-driven society from a Christian worldview.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is required each year of middle school.

PPE106: LIFETIME SPORTS – BOYS AND GIRLS

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 6**

Sixth-grade students at GCS participate in our Dynamic Physical Education Program, which provides students with a physical education experience that encourages them to develop a healthy and active lifestyle. Each lesson consists of a fitness segment which develops each child's muscular endurance, muscular strength, aerobic endurance and flexibility, and a lesson focus which leads to the development of sports skills such as those used in basketball, football, volleyball, and hockey. Students will exhibit Christ-likeness by demonstrating good character through their participation in the many team and individual sports and activities offered.

PPE107B/PPE108B: LIFETIME SPORTS – BOYS & GIRLS

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8**

Christ-centered physical education emphasizes stewardship of the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, teamwork, encouragement and leadership opportunities. Program goals include the development of a healthy, active lifestyle in order to prepare students to be lifetime exercisers who are “Fit to Serve.” A basic understanding and development of fitness principles/components are integrated to form a foundation against which sports and movement-related opportunities are provided for student success. Units that promote skill development in soccer, volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, mush ball, football, stunts/pyramids and gym games are incorporated.

SCIENCE

Science is required each year of middle school.

SCI106: SCIENCE 6

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

Science 6 reveals the incredible intricacies of cells and organisms, matter and energy, astronomy, heredity, the nervous system, and the immune system through, exciting, but manageable science experiments and science projects taught from a Christian worldview.

SCI107: LIFE SCIENCE

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7

This Life Science lab course discusses such topics as taxonomy, cell function, and life cycles, genetics, biblical creationism vs. evolution, microbiology, plant biology, the animal kingdom, ecosystems, and human anatomy. A semester long Science Fair Project is required from each student. All subjects are taught from a Christian Worldview.

SCI108: PHYSICAL SCIENCE

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 8

Physical Science is an engaging introduction to the world of physics and chemistry. Physical Science provides an essential foundation for subsequent science courses, including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. It builds a foundation of basic knowledge regarding matter and measurements early on, then furnishes the student with the key principles and scientific laws of classical physics, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, sound, light, and optics. A semester long Science Fair Project is required from each student. We teach our Physical Science classes from a Christian Worldview.

HISTORY

History is required each year of middle school.

HIS106: ANCIENT CIVILIZATION

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

This course uses *Heritage Studies*, a Christian curriculum by Bob Jones. This course is an introduction to world civilizations. Students study the geography, culture, government, archaeology, religion, and history of ancient peoples from Mesopotamia through the Middle Ages.

HIS107: WORLD STUDIES

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7

This course uses *World Studies*, 3rd Ed. (BJU Press), and traces the civilizations of the world through the lens of a Christian worldview. Beginning with a brief review of world history from Creation to Christ’s coming, students will begin a chronological journey through the eras of history as they study cultures, empires, world religions, and the development of Christianity. This course of studies concludes as students examine the emergence of the 21st century. An additional module from JA Finance will take students through a study of financial practices.

HIS108: AMERICAN HISTORY

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 8**

This course uses *American Republic*, 3rd ed. (BJU Press), and takes students through the unfolding history of the United States of America. The course begins with the discovery of the new world and traces the flow of American history up to the present day. There is a distinctive emphasis on our national core values of freedom, individualism, and equality. All content is rich in a Christian worldview and enables students to understand the historical roots and significance of the nation they live in.

HIS207: AMERICAN HISTORY

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: TEACHER REFERRAL & STUDENT'S HONORS COMMITMENT**GRADE LEVEL: 7**

Honors 7th Grade History: Studies focus on Western Civilization and provide additional challenge for students to increase their proficiency in understanding Western Civilization. Students focus on reading, analyzing, and interpreting original documents. Socratic Seminars cover documents read and hone students' ability to discuss events in depth and from a Christian worldview. Students need a high level of responsibility and motivation to be successful and will be qualified based on these criteria: Teacher recommendation, work ethic, 6th grade English, ACT Aspire scores, and parent permission to take honors.

HIS208: AMERICAN HISTORY

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: TEACHER REFERRAL & STUDENT'S HONORS COMMITMENT**GRADE LEVEL: 8**

8th Grade Honors American History: Students will be challenged to increase their understanding of United States history through reading, analyzing, and interpreting primary source documents. The course will cover the colonization of America through Reconstruction and will have an emphasis on the Constitution. All units will be addressed from a Christian worldview. Students in the honors program need a high level of responsibility and motivation to be successful and will be qualified based on these criteria: Teacher recommendation, work ethic, 7th grade English and history scores, ACT Aspire scores, and parent permission to take honors.

SPANISH

SPA209: SPANISH 1 ***

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8**

This course development the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. At this level, the student expands his/her capacity to express himself/herself and to understand spoken and written communication. Special emphasis is placed on developing oral fluency with the acquired language. Throughout the study, emphasis is given on the Christian perspective of viewing the cultures of Ecuador, The Dominican Republic, Argentina, and Costa Rica. Students who successfully complete the course with 80% or better will be eligible for Spanish 2 the following year.

***** These courses will receive a high school credit and will be calculated in their overall high school GPA

OMEGA HOUR COURSE OFFERINGS (7/8 GRADE ONLY; NON-CREDIT, ATTENDANCE-ONLY COURSES)

CHOIR REHEARSAL

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: MUST BE IN YOUTH MEN'S CHORUS OR YOUTH WOMEN'S CHORUS

GRADE LEVEL: 7/8

Choir members will be assigned a time for large group rehearsals during Omega Hour to prepare for competitions and performances.

DISCIPLESHIP

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7TH/8TH BOYS, 7TH/8TH GIRLS

All middle school students are placed in gender-based discipleship group. Topics of study are based on annual middle school theme and chosen by the administrator and spiritual life director. Students watch sermons on topics related to Christ and his supremacy in all things in a way that meets middle students where they are at. This is a relationship developing and heart challenging class designed to foster love for Jesus, His Word, His people, and His mission.

STUDENT COUNCIL

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: MUST BE ELECTED TO STUDENT COUNCIL OR PART OF CADRE

GRADE LEVEL: 6, 7 & 8

All elected middle school students will be assigned to student council during Omega Hour. Members of cadre may come to meeting if they are caught up in all other classes. Cadre members assigned to Omega Hour Student Council will come as they are able to after other academic commitments are met. Student Council members are required to attend this class each week.

STUDY HALL/GENERAL TUTORING:

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

All middle school students are assigned to Omega Hour study hall at least once per week to finish homework and seek tutoring from other teachers as necessary. Students are responsible to ask teachers for passes to leave their assigned study hall to seek tutoring in another classroom.

YEARBOOK

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

This course requires is led by a teacher sponsor and the yearbook team produces the K8 yearbooks for both the Agritopia and Greenfield campuses.