



**GILBERT  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOLS**

**2023-2024  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
COURSE CATALOG**



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# MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

## **ART**

Art is offered as a daily elective.

## **BIBLE**

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

## **ENGLISH**

English is required each year of middle school.

## **FINE ARTS**

A Fine Art is required each year of middle school. Options vary for each campus and grade.

## **HISTORY**

History is required each year of middle school.

## **MATHEMATICS**

Math is required each year of middle school.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Physical Education is offered as a daily elective.

## **SCIENCE**

Science is required each year of middle school.

## **SPANISH**

Spanish 1 is offered to 8th grade students for high school credit at the Greenfield campus.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Technology is offered as a daily elective.





# ART

Middle school students receive art instruction weekly.

6th GRADE ART	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 6	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
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.	

MS ART	1 SEMESTER
GRADE LEVEL: 7 – 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
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 and a skill that is strongly encouraged in art projects, but carries over to every subject and every challenge 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.	

# BIBLE

Bible is required each year of middle school.

6th GRADE BIBLE	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 6	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
This course features inductive Bible study methods. Students will 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.	

MS BIBLE	2 YEARS
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
This two-year course examines the foundations of the Christian faith by using questions from New City Catechism, verse-by-verse inductive study methods, lectures, and class discussion. This course will yield both an understanding of Christian beliefs as well as an improved ability for self-study in God's Word. Quarterly benchmarks will demonstrate an understanding of foundational Christian beliefs and Scriptural observations. One-half of the curriculum will be taught each school year and will alternate every other year. Curriculum: New City Catechism by Timothy Keller; and Living by the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible, by Howard G. Hendricks and William D. Hendricks.	



# ENGLISH

English is required each year of middle school.

6th GRADE ENGLISH	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 6	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
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.	

7th GRADE ENGLISH	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 7	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
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 skills are taught within literature units.	

7th GRADE HONORS ENGLISH	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 7	PREREQUISITES: INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL
CAMPUS: ALL	
Honors 7th Grade English provides additional challenges for students who would like to increase their proficiency in reading and writing in a variety of literary genres. 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. Students in the honors program need a high level of responsibility and motivation to be successful and will be qualified based on teacher recommendation of student's maturity and work ethic, 6th grade English scores, CTP scores, and parent permission.	

8th GRADE ENGLISH	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
Students examine the elements of literature through short stories, poetry, and novels as they explore text complexity. Students 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 skills are taught within literature units.	



8th GRADE HONORS ENGLISH	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 8	PREREQUISITES: INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL
CAMPUS: ALL	
<p>Honors 8th Grade English is designed to offer students a broad literature and writing curriculum that provides additional challenges for students who would like to increase their proficiency in reading and writing through a variety of literary genres. Emphasis is placed on literary analysis and critique, advanced compositional theory, and an appreciation for classical literature that will be analyzed through a Christian worldview. Students will be further challenged through a variety of creative projects and activities that foster critical thinking and comprehension. Students in the honors program need a high level of responsibility and motivation to be successful. Participation in honors is based on teacher recommendation, work ethic, 7th grade English scores, CTP scores, and parent permission.</p>	

## FINE ARTS

### Agritopia Campus

Strings or Music Appreciation is required in Grade 6.  
 Strings, Choir, or General Music is required in Grades 7 & 8.

### Greenfield Campus

Band or Music Appreciation is required in Grade 6.  
 Band, Choir, or Piano is required in Grades 7 & 8.

### Val Vista Campus

Band or Music Appreciation is required in Grade 6.  
 Band, Choir, or General Music is required in Grades 7 & 8.

MUSIC APPRECIATION	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 6	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
<p>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 tools to succeed in 7th grade performance ensembles. All lessons are taught from a Christian worldview emphasizing God's gift of music as a way to bring Him praise in all of life.</p>	

MUSIC MAKERS (GENERAL MUSIC)	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: AGRITOPIA, VAL VISTA	
<p>Focus verse for class: "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs" (Psalm 100:2). Music Makers consists of 7th and 8th grade boys and girls who desire to engage in a variety of music activities. Music Makers participate in choral-based music activities including singing, playing instruments, reading, listening, and moving to music, composition, and improvisation. Wednesdays are devoted to worship and prayer. This group performs in four school concerts per year.</p>	



MS CHAMBER CHOIR	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: GREENFIELD	
<p>Chamber Choir is a non-auditioned performing ensemble made up of 7th and 8th grade students. The rigorous choral curriculum focuses on music literacy, vocal technique, and presentation skills. All singers learn good rehearsal technique, sight-reading skills, self-discipline, excellence, teamwork, worship, 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.</p>	

ROOTED (BOYS CHOIR)	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: AGRITOPIA, VAL VISTA	
<p>Focus verse for class: "Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (Colossians 2:7). Rooted consists of 7th &amp; 8th grade boys who show a high level of commitment to the choir program. Rooted performs unison and two-part music. Students perform different styles of music: traditional choral music, Spirituals, folk songs, African songs, Broadway, and pop culture. Wednesdays are devoted to worship and prayer. This group performs in four school concerts per year and at the AzACDA Junior High Festival (field trip).</p>	

GCS LIGHT (GIRLS CHOIR)	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8	PREREQUISITES: AUDITION OR TEACHER RECOMMENDATION
CAMPUS: AGRITOPIA, VAL VISTA	
<p>"...Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). GCS Light consists of 7th and 8th grade girls who show advanced vocal skills and a high level of commitment to the choir program. GCS Light performs two- and three-part music. Students perform different styles of music: traditional choral music (including foreign languages), Spirituals, folk songs, African songs, Broadway, and pop culture. Wednesdays are devoted to worship and prayer. This group performs in four school concerts per year and at the AzACDA Junior High Festival (field trip). Students in this class are encouraged to audition for Concert Choir in High School.</p>	

6TH GRADE BAND	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 6	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: GREENFIELD, VAL VISTA	
<p>6th grade band is a non-auditioned performing ensemble made up of 6th grade students. The rigorous band and musical curriculum focuses on music literacy, instrument technique, and presentation skills. All 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.</p>	

MS BAND	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: GREENFIELD, VAL VISTA	
<p>Middle School Band is a non-auditioned performing ensemble made up of 7th and 8th grade students. The rigorous band and musical curriculum focuses on music literacy, instrument technique, and presentation skills. All performers also learn about good rehearsal technique,</p>	



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.

<b>6th GRADE ORCHESTRA</b>	<b>1 YEAR</b>
<b>GRADE LEVEL: 6</b>	<b>PREREQUISITES: NONE</b>
<b>CAMPUS: AGRITOPIA</b>	
<p>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. Students must provide their own instrument.</p>	

<b>7th GRADE ORCHESTRA</b>	<b>1 YEAR</b>
<b>GRADE LEVEL: 7</b>	<b>PREREQUISITES: NONE</b>
<b>CAMPUS: AGRITOPIA</b>	
<p>7th Grade 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 6th grade orchestra that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in four required performances per year, and smaller performance opportunities in class and around the GCS community. Students must provide their own instrument.</p>	

<b>8th GRADE ORCHESTRA</b>	<b>1 YEAR</b>
<b>GRADE LEVEL: 8</b>	<b>PREREQUISITES: TWO YEARS OF STUDY ON CURRENT INSTRUMENT OR EVIDENCE OF ADEQUATE PREPARATION AS DETERMINED BY INSTRUCTOR</b>
<b>CAMPUS: AGRITOPIA</b>	
<p>8th Grade 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 7th Grade Orchestra that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance, focusing on preparation for High School Orchestra. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in four required performances per year, and smaller performance opportunities in class and around the GCS community. Students must provide their own instrument.</p>	

<b>MS PIANO</b>	<b>1 YEAR</b>
<b>GRADE LEVEL: 7 &amp; 8</b>	<b>PREREQUISITES: NONE</b>
<b>CAMPUS: GREENFIELD</b>	
<p>Piano is a class for 7th and 8th grade students who wish to learn to play the piano in a group setting. Little to no experience is required as the course starts with training in basic skills. Students participate in a sequential Piano curriculum focused on music literacy, technique, and performance skills. All Piano students also learn about proper practice techniques, self-discipline, excellence, and respect from a Christian worldview. Students with prior piano experience will be given challenge pieces in addition to the regular curriculum to hone their skills. Piano students are required to participate in both formal and informal Piano recital performances throughout the academic year.</p>	





# HISTORY

History is required each year of middle school.

6th GRADE HISTORY	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 6	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
This course is an introduction to world civilizations, using Heritage Studies, a Christian curriculum by Bob Jones. Students study the geography, culture, government, archaeology, religion, and history of ancient peoples from Mesopotamia through the Middle Ages.	

7th GRADE HISTORY	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 7	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
This course uses American Republic, 4rd 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 Civil War. 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 their nation.	
*The Val Vista campus will use the 5th ed. for the 2023-2024 school year, followed by the Agridopia and Greenfield campuses in 2024-2025.	

8th GRADE HISTORY	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
This course uses American Republic, 4rd ed.* (BJU Press), and takes students through the unfolding history of the United States of America. This course begins with a recap of the Civil War, then traces American history from the Reconstruction Era to 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 their nation.	
*The Val Vista campus will use the 5th ed. for the 2023-2024 school year, followed by the Agridopia and Greenfield campuses in 2024-2025.	

# MATHEMATICS

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

6th GRADE MATH	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 6	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
6th grade math uses Carnegie Learning Math Solution. Its instructional resources were developed using both a scientific understanding of how people learn and a real-world	



understanding of how to apply that science to mathematics instructional materials. The Carnegie Learning Math Solution includes two elements: a consumable textbook and the MATHia software. These elements work in concert to take into account the variety of ways students learn and leverage different strategies students need to learn math. In this course, students will connect ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division, extend understanding of number and operation to the system of rational numbers, use expressions and equations to solve problems, and develop an understanding of statistical thinking.

7th GRADE MATH	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 7	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
<p>This comprehensive math course 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 will be placed at the appropriate level of math based on placement tests and teacher recommendations.</p>	

PRE-ALGEBRA	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 8	PREREQUISITES: PLACEMENT FOR 7TH GRADE OR LOWER BASED ON TEACHER APPROVAL
CAMPUS: ALL	
<p>This comprehensive math course prepares students to enter high school Algebra 1 and high school Geometry. 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 will be placed at their appropriate level of math based on placement tests and teacher recommendations.</p>	

ALGEBRA I	1 YEAR	1 CREDIT
GRADE LEVEL: 9	PREREQUISITES: TEACHER APPROVAL	
CAMPUS: ALL		
<p>Attention will be given to solving math problems with and without technology. Algebra builds on Pre-Algebra and further develops algebraic thinking, as demonstrated in manipulating expressions and equations in various forms to identify characteristics on a graph or in written form. Students will explore and learn linear expressions, equations, and inequalities with application in linear systems. Students will also explore and learn quadratic expressions and equations, exponential equations, and rational expressions and equations, followed by an introduction to probability and statistics.</p> <p><i>Teacher recommendation and approval based on achievement, work ethic, participation, and responsibility. Students completing this course will receive a high school credit on their transcripts, but it will not be calculated in their overall high school GPA.</i></p>		



GEOMETRY	1 YEAR	1 CREDIT
GRADE LEVEL: 10	PREREQUISITES: ALGEBRA I & TEACHER APPROVAL	
CAMPUS: ALL		
<p>Using the concepts from Algebra I, 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.</p> <p><i>Teacher recommendation and approval based on achievement, work ethic, participation, and responsibility. Students completing this course will receive a high school credit on their transcripts, but it will not be calculated in their overall high school GPA.</i></p>		

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is required each year of middle school.

6th GRADE LIFETIME SPORTS	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 6	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
<p>6th grade students at GCS participate in our dynamic physical education program, which encourages them to develop a healthy and active lifestyle. Each lesson consists of a fitness segment that develops each child’s muscular endurance, muscular strength, aerobic endurance, and flexibility, and a lesson focus that 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.</p>	

MS LIFETIME SPORTS	1 SEMESTER
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
<p>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.” Students gain a basic understanding and development of fitness principles and components that form a foundation for student success in sports and movement-related opportunities. Units promote skill development in soccer, volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, mush ball, football, stunts/pyramids and gym games.</p>	



# SCIENCE

Science is required each year of middle school.

6th GRADE SCIENCE	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 6	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
6th Grade Science 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.	

7th GRADE SCIENCE	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 7	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
7th Grade Science discusses such topics as taxonomy, cell function, 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.	

8th GRADE SCIENCE	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
8th Grade Science provides an essential foundation for subsequent science courses, including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. It builds a foundation of basic knowledge of creation and how Earth's various processes work. A semester-long science fair project is required from each student. We teach our science classes from a Christian worldview.	

# SPANISH

Spanish 1 is offered to 8th grade students as HS credit.

SPANISH 1	1 YEAR	1 CREDIT
GRADE LEVEL: 8	PREREQUISITES: TEACHER APPROVAL	
CAMPUS: GREENFIELD		
This course develops the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. At this level, students expand their capacity to express themselves and to understand spoken and written communication. Special emphasis is placed on developing oral fluency. Throughout the study, students view the cultures of Ecuador, The Dominican Republic, Argentina, and Costa Rica from a Christian perspective. Students who successfully complete the course with an 80% or better will be eligible for Spanish 2 the following year.		
<i>Teacher recommendation and approval based on achievement, work ethic, participation, and responsibility. Students completing this course will receive a high school credit on their transcripts, but it will not be calculated in their overall high school GPA.</i>		





# TECHNOLOGY

MS students receive weekly technology instructions.

6th GRADE TECHNOLOGY	1 YEAR
GRADE LEVEL: 6	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: ALL	
<p>The goal of 6th Grade Technology is to prepare students for upper middle school coursework, and to help students 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. 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.</p>	

MS TECHNOLOGY, FILM, & ROBOTICS	1 SEMESTER
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: GREENFIELD	
<p>Students will work through a variety of film techniques and projects designed to give them an introduction into the world of movie making. Good storytelling is a powerful way that we can share the Gospel with the world. Jesus is our example in this as He often used stories to convey Kingdom truths. Topics include storytelling, cinematography, basic video editing, special effects, silent film, stop motion, and more. Students will also dive into other areas of technology such as coding, basic robotics, engineering, and innovation. Students will also have the option of applying to be a part of a competitive robotics team. Robotics students will work together to build, engineer, and code robots with Lego components, with a goal to compete in the FIRST LEGO League robotics competitions that happen both at the local and state level. Robotics students will learn to work as a team, innovate, think critically, and solve problems as they tackle the various challenges.</p>	

MS TECHNOLOGY	1 SEMESTER
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8	PREREQUISITES: NONE
CAMPUS: AGRITOPIA & VAL VISTA	
<p>The goal of Middle School Technology is to prepare students 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. 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.</p>	