

First Assembly Christian School Eighth Grade Curriculum

English

Eighth grade English emphasizes the practice and mastery of written and oral communication skills as follows: grammar usage and mechanics, the parts of speech and their functions, research, public speaking and composition. In addition to assigned compositions, students engage in independent self-selected writing. In the eighth grade, an emphasis is placed on independent learning and research.

Text: Grammar and Composition II – A Beka, Wordly Wise 5 – Educators Publishing, Inc.

Literature

In literature, students continue to develop reading skills and higher-order thinking skills through whole class discussion, and as they study both assigned and self-selected texts. Self-selected reading teaches the students how to make good choices in reading material and enhances reading for pleasure. An anthology is used to study short stories and poetry. Students participate in various projects throughout the year.

Text: Glencoe Literature Course III, The Cross and the Switchblade – David Wilkerson

Algebra

The topics covered in eighth grade math include basic properties, real numbers, sets, solutions of equalities and inequalities, simultaneous linear equations, factoring, operations with polynomials, functions and relations, irrational numbers, probability and statistics, and an introduction to trigonometry. Application and the solving of word problems are emphasized throughout the year.

Text: Algebra I Integration, Applications, Connections – Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.

Pre-Algebra

This 7th grade math course introduces the set of integers, the set of rational numbers, and properties. Operations with rational numbers are used in simplifying expressions, solving equations, inequalities, and proportions. Other topics include exponents, graphing on the coordinate plane, geometry, and volume, square roots, statistics and probability, and polynomials. Problem solving is emphasized throughout the year as students prepare for Algebra I.

Text: Pre-algebra – An Integrated Transition to Algebra and Geometry Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.

Science

The eighth-grade curriculum is based on a study of *life science*. Topics such as life, heredity, creation and evolution, diversity of life, plants, animals, ecology and human biology are covered. Discussions involve current research within a field. Dissection software is very important in the study of the animal kingdom. Students also learn basic principles of microscopy and cell culture. At this stage of learning, the laboratory experience is very important. Eighth grade students learn proper lab techniques, safety procedures and how the lab fits in with the scientific method. As in all science courses, mastery of the scientific method as a problem-solving tool is a very important objective. Eighth grade students learn the scientific method as they devise their own experiments to find solutions to questions. The Science Fair Project provides the students an opportunity to demonstrate their mastery of the scientific method. It is an individual project, and it requires 10 weeks work of investigation and a research paper. The **Science Fair** is held in the spring and is **optional in eighth grade**.

Text: Glencoe Life Science – McGraw-Hill

Social Studies

The eighth-grade curriculum is a three-part course that focuses on North Carolina, and Modern U.S. History. The first semester revolves around a hands-on investigation of our state. The students study various aspects of NC including its history and its industry. Focus is placed on modern American history during the final semester. American history from the end of World War II to present day is studied. This involves a decade-by-decade examination of how our country developed since 1945. In conjunction with these studies, the students write and present a research paper on a historical topic from this time period. Also included is a three-week section on the history of Winston-Salem, including a review of the social,

economic and religious development of the city. Students are required to complete three research papers/projects during the year.

Text: NC: History of an American State-Clairmont Press
History of US-All the People 1945-2001-Harkim

Bible

Eighth grade Bible classes begin the year with a study of Harold Morris's book, The Law of the Harvest. Here the students are taught the law of sowing and reaping. They end the book by watching the movie that depicts Harold Morris's life. Topics covered in this book include Peer Pressure, Relationships, Racism, Alcohol, Love, and Suicide. Following this study, the students work through an ACSI text entitled, The Life of Christ. They look closely at the life of Christ and study His miracles, His birth, death, and resurrection. Weekly Bible memory quizzes are given to accompany the sections studied.

Text: The Law of the Harvest – Harold Morris; The Life of Christ - ACSI

Spanish

This curriculum's purpose is to expose the student to basic reading, writing, oral, and listening skills in Spanish. Emphasis is placed on students acquiring a working knowledge of the language to assist in their transition into high school.

Text: Realidades 1 – Prentice Hall

Computer Lab

The eighth grade computer lab activities are built upon the previous two years' curriculum. The activities place emphasis on computer usage mastery. Students become proficient in databases, spreadsheets and word processing. Focus is placed upon preparing for the North Carolina Computer Competency Test. This test is administered in the spring and evaluates the students' computer usage knowledge and performance abilities. Passing this assessment is a requirement for graduation from any North Carolina high school. Students create multimedia projects that correspond to classroom instruction.

Physical Education

Middle school physical education continues to develop gross-motor skills. The classes emphasize the use of these skills in organized sports activities. In addition, the classes focus on appropriate sportsmanship and conduct, and also teach the basic rules of each individual sport.

Life Skills

This class provides the opportunity to explore financial and job challenges students will face in the years ahead. In a hands-on, real life application format, students learn biblical principals and apply them. They study banking systems, the cause and effect of debt, consumer wisdom, budgeting, purchasing cars and homes, and investments. Students will also research different occupations, learn how to make a resume', fill out a job application and time management.

Middle School Activity Period (one-hour every Friday afternoon.)

The students choose from a wide variety of hands on classes and attend a different class each quarter. Some examples of classes offered are: Science Club, Photography, Yearbook, Review Crew, Band, Drama, Teacher Assistant, and Computer Club.