GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Middle School Academic Overview
Grades 6 - 8

2025 – 2026 School Year

The middle school program for sixth through eighth grades is designed to solidify the educational foundation of elementary education while preparing students for the rigor of an excellent, college-preparatory high school academic program. Community outreach projects, fine arts, technology integration, sports, and clubs are all designed for students to investigate their God-given gifts, talents, and interests.

Expected Student Outcomes
We expect GRACE Christian students to grow to:

- Be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ
- Be academically prepared for the college or career of their choice
- Be engaged to impact their world positively through their own unique talents and abilities
- Develop a Christian worldview and thorough knowledge of Scripture to share and defend their faith
- Possess the critical thinking skills, creativity, and confidence to handle opportunities and adversities
- Demonstrate the character of Christ in all areas of everyday life
- Love and serve others consistently

GRADE LEVEL DISTINCTIVES

SIXTH GRADE

Bible
The Bible is the true story of what God is doing to glorify Himself by redeeming His fallen creation. In this course, the Gospels present the life of Christ not as a biographical sketch but as the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan as promised in the Old Testament. Jesus has all of the characteristics of the Messiah and fulfills the Messiah's mission to advance the kingdom of God.

English
Students are exposed to a multi-level English curriculum that includes grammar, composition, and literature. Instruction includes an emphasis on crafting writing to describe and persuade, character analysis, point of view, personal narrative, research paper, and creative writing. Literature studies include fiction and nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Literature content includes reading skills, literary analysis, vocabulary, conventions, writing, speaking and listening, and research and technology.

Math: Math 6 or Pre-Algebra

Math 6:
This course prepares students for pre-algebra by ensuring a foundation in basic arithmetic and geometry. Students will focus on building problem-solving skills and strategies; comparing and ordering positive and negative numbers; practicing operations with positive numbers, fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals; using ratios, rates, and percent; simplifying algebraic expressions; solving equations and inequalities; using coordinates to create graphs, writing linear equations and using tables to represent equations; finding the areas of polygons and circles, finding perimeter and circumferences, and finding the surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes; applying statistical reasoning to data sets, and finding the mean, median mode, and range of data sets.

Pre-Algebra:
This course bridges arithmetic and algebra and reinforces skills in operating with whole numbers, fractions and decimals, ratios, rates, percentages, and proportions. Basic algebra skills include operating with negative numbers, using order of operations, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, finding the slope of a line, and solving systems of equations by graphing. The course introduces topics from plane and solid geometry, probability, and data analysis.

Life Science
This course is the beginning of the middle school science sequence. Students are introduced to life science concepts that are further developed in the high school biology course. The course focuses on cells and their functions, genetics and heredity, and the classification and diversity of living things. Life Science is presented with an emphasis on God's creation. Students are presented with various perspectives on the world's origin, and they are challenged to look at the natural world through a Biblical worldview lens while recognizing that others in the scientific community may have a worldview different from their own.

History
To understand today's world, we must learn about the past. Ancient civilizations laid strong foundations for modern culture. In this class, students investigate, examine, and understand the development of civilizations from Mesopotamia and Mediterranean Civilizations through the Middle Ages. Students learn the five themes of geography: location, region, movement, place, and human-environment interaction. Map skills are emphasized for geographic literacy, and informational texts are studied to analyze the author's purpose, distinguish fact and opinion, identify evidence, and evaluate material. Students learn how the study of other people, cultures, and actions allows us to seek God's wisdom.

School Success
This required course emphasizes instruction on how to study, test-taking skills, organization, time management, digital citizenship/digital footprint, and social-emotional learning skills. Students learn Christ-honoring lifestyle choices within fitness and nutrition. The course is designed to provide students with organizational, study, technology, and social skills to succeed in the classroom and set a foundation of good study habits and techniques for progressing through middle and high school.

Physical Education

Highlights
- Field trips include Eno River State Park and Middle School Social Events
- iPads provided to all students for school and home use
- Choice of two weekly elective courses, including fitness, art, chorus, theatre, dance, band, family and consumer science, multimedia, GRACE news, leadership, and more
- Extracurricular opportunities, including theatre and book clubs
- Students are eligible to participate in the Middle School Athletics Program

SEVENTH GRADE

Bible
Continuing this survey course from sixth grade, students will read the New Testament (Acts through Revelation) and respond to critical thinking questions about the text and today's culture. Emphasis is given to reading and engaging with the Bible text. Creative activities, group discussions, and guided reading questions assist in comprehending and applying the material.

English
Seventh-grade English focuses on age-appropriate thematic essential questions and uses novels, poems, plays, and non-fiction texts to examine answers while anchoring all instruction in a biblical worldview. Students build skills in narrative, argumentative, and informative writing models while increasing competency in grammatical application and vocabulary acquisition. Additionally, students develop speaking and listening skills through the units of study. Independent reading is encouraged, and student choice is available, fostering a love for reading.

Math: Pre-Algebra, Foundations of Algebra, or Algebra I

Pre-Algebra:
This course bridges arithmetic and algebra and reinforces skills in operating with whole numbers, fractions and decimals, ratios, rates, percentages, and proportions. Basic algebra skills include operating with negative numbers, using order of operations, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, finding the slope of a line, and solving systems of equations by graphing. The course introduces topics from plane and solid geometry, probability, and data analysis.

Foundations of Algebra
This course prepares students who have not mastered algebra readiness topics. Students will be recommended for this class, between Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1, based on final grades in Pre-Algebra and teacher evaluation. Students will engage in activities that require them to identify, analyze, and solve problems involving the following topics: operations with integers, one-step to multi-step equations, coordinate graphing, converting phrases to numerical/algebraic expressions (words to symbols and vice versa), exponents, and geometry (including perimeter, area, and volume). Students will also be introduced to statistical concepts like simple and compound probability, analyzing box-and-whisker plots, and analyzing trend lines.

Algebra I:
This foundational course is for eighth—or ninth-grade students and is important for the other high school math and science classes. It builds on the skills acquired in pre-algebra. It includes the study of variables and functions, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, systems of equations, probability, and the non-linear functions of quadratics, polynomials, exponentials, roots, and rational functions.

Earth Science
Students learn the basic traits and functions of planet Earth. Topics include rocks, minerals, plate tectonics, natural disasters, water, weather, and astronomy. General science skills such as lab techniques, the standardized scientific process, time management, and research methods are also practiced. The intricacies of God's creation are discussed and explored in every topic.

History
In this World History survey class, students study the world from the Renaissance to contemporary times to understand the implications of increased global interactions. The focus remains on the discipline of geography by using the themes of location, place, movement, human-environmental interaction, and region to understand modern societies and regions. Students are guided through patterns of change and continuity with a focus on conflict and cooperation, economic development, population shifts, political thought and organization, cultural values and beliefs, and the impact of the environment over time. Students examine similarities and differences by investigating the various factors that shaped the development of societies and regions in the modern world and global interactions. The standards are organized around these strands: history, geography, and environmental literacy, economics and financial literacy, civics, and governance and culture.

STEM
This required course connects Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to real-world applications. Students will learn to collaborate, communicate, and think critically while following the engineering design process to solve problems. Projects in civil engineering, 3D modeling and printing, digital citizenship, electrical circuits, computer programming, and forensics provide opportunities for hands-on learning. Students will discover design in creation and learn how design points to a designer.

Physical Education/ Health
Physical education and health instruction are required for all middle school students. Physical education equips students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for lifelong physical activity. It is aligned with the North Carolina Physical Education Grade Level Content Expectations and the North Carolina Essential Standards for Physical Education. Students will participate regularly in supervised and organized physical activities to maintain physical fitness and understand the short- and long-term benefits of a physically active and healthy lifestyle. 7th-grade health focuses on nutrition, healthy habits, and making God-honoring choices.

Health:

Highlights
- Middle School Social Events
- Laptops are provided to all students for school and home use
- Various electives and clubs are offered
- Students are eligible to participate in the School Athletics Program

EIGHTH GRADE

Bible
Many Christians are unsure about what they believe and how to defend it. They may wonder if their faith is meaningful and credible. Because of this, they struggle to pass on a relevant Christianity to their families and friends. Eighth grade Bible will unpack foundational biblical truths that define the core of Christian belief, including the truths about God, the Bible, creation, sin, Christ, salvation, the church, and the end times. Apologetics is the branch of theology that seeks to strengthen the believer's faith. It can serve as a bridge to evangelism by removing potential barriers that unbelievers may have that prevent them from encountering Christ. This is more than learning knowledge for knowledge's sake. This is an exploration into the depths of Scripture with the truth of God as the treasure to be sought. A proper understanding of theology draws one to worship—as we see more clearly who this God is, we are compelled to praise His beauty.

English
The English Language Arts curriculum for grade eight is constructed around communication environments that enable students to communicate with clarity, purpose, and care. By requiring aptitudes in oral language, written language, and other media/technology, the curriculum strives to create real-life learning experiences for students to communicate in different contexts, for different purposes, and with different audiences. Students will continue to show evidence of mastery of competencies developed at previous grade levels while continuing to grow in written expression, oral communication, and reading fluency. All short stories, passages, novels, plays, and poetry are connected thematically and examined through a Christ-centered lens.

Math: Foundations of Algebra, Algebra I, or Geometry

Foundations of Algebra
This course prepares students who have not mastered algebra readiness topics. Students will be recommended for this class, between Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1, based on final grades in Pre-Algebra and teacher evaluation. Students will engage in activities that require them to identify, analyze, and solve problems involving the following topics: operations with integers, one-step to multi-step equations, coordinate graphing, converting phrases to numerical/algebraic expressions (words to symbols and vice versa), exponents, and geometry (including perimeter, area, and volume). Students will also be introduced to statistical concepts like simple and compound probability, analyzing box-and-whisker plots, and analyzing trend lines.

Algebra I:
This foundational course is for eighth—or ninth-grade students and is important for the other high school math and science classes. It builds on the skills acquired in pre-algebra. It includes the study of variables, functions, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, systems of equations, probability, and the non-linear functions of quadratics, polynomials, exponentials, roots, and rational functions.

Geometry:
This course provides a comprehensive look at geometric concepts and logical reasoning based on knowledge of basic algebra and discrete mathematical concepts. Pure and applied mathematics is applied throughout the course while solving geometric problems. Multiple formats are supported through mastery, including two-column, paragraph, flow, and indirect proofs. Students learn to value the need to think logically and present ideas in a logical order. Traditional geometry concepts and logical reasoning are emphasized throughout, while measurement and applications are integrated to motivate students via real-world connections. Algebra is reviewed and integrated throughout. Algebra 1 skills are reviewed at point-of-use, ensuring students maintain these skills. Algebra integration within coordinate geometry topics, plus probability and statistics connections, are found throughout.

Physical Science
This course introduces the concepts and skills of chemistry and physics. Chemistry topics range from states of matter on a molecular level, the history of the atomic model, the arrangement of the periodic table, the language of chemistry, the pH scale, and chemical reactions. The physics portion of the course covers the relationships between matter and energy in the areas of forces, motion, waves, and sound; light and optics; electricity; and magnetism. These topics are taught using a mixture of inquiry, direct instruction, and computer research.

History
This United States history course covers geographic themes, discussions, events, and issues from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction and the Western movement, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics covered include Indigenous Americans, colonization, the Revolutionary War, Constitutional issues, nation-building, the Civil War & Reconstruction, the Western movement, the development of the United States as a world power, and other major turning points in our nation's history.

Foreign Language: Spanish I

Spanish I: The course integrates communication, culture, cross-curricular connections, language comparisons, and a multilingual community approach to motivate and encourage students to explore the Spanish language and culture.

Physical Education/ Health
Physical education and health instruction are required for all middle school students. Physical education equips students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for lifelong physical activity. It is aligned with the North Carolina Physical Education Grade Level Content Expectations and the North Carolina Essential Standards for Physical Education. Students participate regularly in supervised and organized physical activities to maintain physical fitness and understand the short- and long-term benefits of a physically active and healthy lifestyle. In 8th grade health, an emphasis is placed on Psalm 139 and discussing how we are wonderfully made. Curriculum content includes body systems, diseases, and substance abuse. The importance of exercise and healthy friendships is also discussed.

Highlights
- Field trips include an overnight field trip to Washington D.C., Middle School Social Events
- Laptops are provided to all students for school and home use
- Various electives and clubs are offered
- Students eligible to participate in the School Athletics Program