

2018-2019
7th Grade Course Selection



Fort Worth Christian
Middle School

SPECIAL MISSION

Consistent with our mission statement, Fort Worth Christian Middle School faculty seeks to educate the whole student. Middle school activities include instructional classroom time, opportunities for service and spiritual development, and athletic and academic competitions. The Middle School provides a bridge from the highly structured elementary grades to the high school level, which provides higher expectations and a greater emphasis on independent learning.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

All classes are taught from a Biblical worldview with the campus' Faith Standards incorporated into instruction on a weekly basis. Students attend chapel daily as well as a Bible class. Opportunities for service learning exist throughout the year. We recognize that all of one's life should be lived to bring honor to God. All activities are viewed with a Christian perspective whether in Bible class, on the playing field, or raking leaves for an elderly neighbor.

ENRICHMENT

FWC provides students with opportunities for learning outside the classroom. Sixth graders spend one day each nine weeks organized by Bible class serving with local organizations. Seventh graders travel to Big Bend National Park. This camping activity provides an education in nature, far from the technology that daily consumes our lives. Eighth graders travel to Washington D.C. and New York City to visit places they've studied in history. In addition, students may travel to academic meets, and participate in Fine Arts activities such as the school play and choir and band competitions. Further activities for student involvement include: Small Group Leadership, Book Club, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Cheerleading, and FWC-TV.

7th Grade Core Classes

Athletics (1st period) - Enrollment open to all 7th and 8th grade students

Competitive athletics is offered to all seventh and eighth grade students. Students enrolling in athletics will participate in one of our competitive sports. Boys sports include football, cross-country, basketball, soccer and track. Girls sports include volleyball, cross-country, basketball, soccer and track. Students not participating in a sport during its season will workout regularly in off-season in preparation for their upcoming season. Students enrolled in athletics will not be allowed to participate without a physical. Students are also expected to adhere to the Athletic Handbook.

Physical Education (1st period) - Enrollment open to all 7th and 8th grade students

Improving the existing fitness level is the primary goal of physical education in seventh and eighth grade. This is done through activities that challenge students in the basic elements of fitness, which are cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance and flexibility. Body composition, another element of fitness, is addressed through limited information on basic nutrition and physiology. A secondary goal is to expose the students to a variety of

physical activities that they can pursue outside of school to continue their personal fitness.

Off-Campus PE - Enrollment open for 7th and 8th graders

Students interested in fulfilling the Physical Education requirements in an off-campus setting must file an application that meets the approval of the Principal and Athletic Director. The student and parents must agree to the parameters set forth by Fort Worth Christian School. The student must be involved in a physical activity over 15 hours a week. The student will furnish the school with an outline of the program on business letterhead with contact information for the instructor. The coach/trainer will need to provide FWC with written documentation of student attendance, a grade report (pass/fail) and an activity log verifying the hours completed of the daily monitored activities. It is the student's responsibility to have an activity log completed daily and delivered to the campus counselor every nine weeks. The instructor will contact FWC if the student's attendance becomes irregular. The activity must be completed during the student's scheduled PE/Athletics time so as not to miss any other class instruction. Students choosing to participate in off-campus Physical Education will **not** be allowed to participate in athletics offered by the campus.

Bible 7

The objective of seventh grade Bible is to help students build their personal spiritual foundation from the knowledge they have previously learned. Using the Bible, Wise Up, and studying the Sermon on the Mount, students learn wisdom and knowledge and develop a personal understanding of the scriptures. The students will discover practical guidance and direction from the scriptures for their lives today as well as for the future. Realistic situations will be used to guide them toward making application using God's word. Students find answers for themselves in Scripture, form personal convictions based on God's Word, and develop Christ-like character. Bible classes will be separated according to gender.

English 7

Students study a variety of poems, short stories and novels both in class and independently. The major reading selections include documentaries and classic and contemporary novels. Students are challenged with each reading to find truth and Christian Principles and understand how this can be applied in their own life spiritually. In addition, students focus on written compositions, grammar components, and spelling and vocabulary enrichment. A majority of their writing concentrates on writing formal essays with emphasis on developing thesis statements, organizing sentences, topic sentences and supporting details. Computers are used in the classroom for writing assignments and research projects. Grammar study includes a review of the eight parts of speech and progresses to the study of more complex sentence structure through the use of adjective, adverb and noun clauses in their writing while stressing usage and mechanics as well.

Math 7

The primary focus of seventh grade Math is to prepare students to be successful in eighth grade Pre-Algebra. Students will work on integers and algebra concepts, the Pythagorean Theorem, proportions, similarity and percent. In addition, students will analyze geometric concepts involving symmetry, the coordinate plane, area and volume. Students will also solve

equations and inequalities and find the slope of lines. Moreover, students will graph quadratic and cubic functions, find the roots of monomials as well as multiply and divide monomials. Finally, students will be able to compute the mean, median, mode and range of a set of numbers. Experimental and theoretical probability will be used in order to make predictions based on the resulting data.

Pre-Algebra 7

****Students in this course have qualified by meeting performance measures in several areas. Students who have met the criteria will be offered an invitation to take this class and their progress will be monitored to insure appropriate placement and a successful Math path at Fort Worth Christian School.**

Students who qualify for Pre-Algebra in seventh grade demonstrate readiness for a faster pace of math instruction including a compacted and in depth study of pre-algebraic strategies. The primary focus of Pre-Algebra is to prepare students to be successful in Algebra. Concepts to be mastered during the class include solving two-step equations, factoring monomials, using proportions to solve real-world problems and solving real-life problems involving discount and interest. Additionally students will solve linear equations with two variables, graph linear equations and write the equation of a line in the y-intercept form. Students will also use geometric thinking in order to find the missing root of a triangle use the distance formula to determine lengths on a coordinate plane, as well as calculate area, perimeter and/or circumference of appropriate geometric figures. Students will add and subtract polynomials and multiply polynomials, as well as graph linear, quadratic and cubic functions.

Science 7

Life Science is a full year course, which deals exclusively with living things. In this introductory biology course, students learn the diversity of living things, classifications, genetics and introduction to basic botany. The second half of the course explores the anatomy and physiology of the human body and how all the systems work together, in union, to maintain life. Lab experiences applying to all concepts are an integral part of this course.

Texas History 7

Seventh grade Texas History is a comprehensive study of the state of Texas from its beginnings to the present. Students will learn about Texas in greater depth and rigor than in grade four. The rich and culturally diverse background of Texas is examined through the eras including the Native Americans, European exploration through mission and settlement, colonization, revolution and statehood. Students regularly incorporate geography skills, think critically, use primary sources and interact in a collaborative environment creating and making presentations.

7th Grade Electives

Fort Worth Christian Middle School's philosophy is to expose students to a variety of electives, which results in well-rounded students. Exposing students to various subjects helps them discover their interests and gives them clarity to what subjects they want to pursue in their high school and college years. Elective classes for 7th grade students are during 7th period and 8th period. Most electives are designed to be taken only once.

Life Skills Pathway

The core of the Fort Worth Christian Middle School Elective Program is our Life Skills Pathway (LSP). Among the many opportunities that students can take advantage of during their three years in middle school, there are five courses that we believe every student should experience. Those five courses are Computer, Performing/Fine Arts, Speech and Drama, Home Economics, and Personal Finance. First is our basic computer class. When we equip our students with a new computer in 6th grade, we want them to quickly gain the skills to utilize it with wisdom and efficiency. In this course, students will learn how to type well, manipulate text in a word processing program, create information in a presentation program, and work with data and numbers in a spreadsheet.

The second course in our LSP is our performing/fine arts elective. Each student must take either choir, band or strings for a minimum of one semester. This component of education promotes an experience in the fine arts, and research has shown the importance of music in brain development. Most students will fulfill these first two requirements in 6th grade. The third component of the LSP will be met during 7th grade - Speech and Drama. For many people, the idea of public speaking causes great anxiety, and while it is not necessary for every profession, the ability to communicate to an audience is a life skill that benefits everyone. We want each 7th grade student to gain the skills and practice the art of oral public presentation and to build on that skill in their future years.

The fourth course is, what we believe, to be a key component that each student should have and will give them great insight into providing for and running a home. Our Home Economics course meets this need. Each student will gain the skills to cook, do laundry, maintain a home budget, care for a newborn (just for a weekend - with a simulated, computerized baby), sew, and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The last component of the LSP is our newest course - Foundations in Personal Finance. This curriculum, based on a Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University and adapted for a middle school age, will teach students about personal finance responsibilities and Christian stewardship. We are the most financially blessed nation in the world, and we hope the financially educated youth of today will continue this positive trend. These last two courses will be taken during the 7th or 8th grade year.

Important things to know

- All students in 7th grade will be enrolled in Speech/Drama for one of their electives.
- Each 6th or 7th grade student must take a performing arts elective (either Band, Choir, or Strings) before the end of their 7th grade year.
- If you have a 90% or above average in 6th grade, you will be placed in Home Economics and Personal Finance during 7th grade as part of your fulfillment of the Life Skills elective pathway and in anticipation of your taking a HS credit elective in 8th grade.

Electives for 7th grade include:

Elective	Meeting Schedule/Duration
Art	MWF or TT for one semester
Advanced Band**	M-F for one year
Beginner Choir**	MWF or TT for one semester
Advanced Choir**	TT for one year
Computer	MWF or TT for one semester
Home Economics	M-F for one semester
Intro Spanish	MWF or TT for one semester
Study Skills*	MWF or TT for one semester
Robotics*	TT for one year
Speech/Drama	MWF or TT for one semester
Advanced Strings*	MWF for one year
Theater*	MWF or TT for one year
Personal Finance	MWF
World Drumming	MWF for one semester

*Denotes class can be repeated. Please see elective course descriptions in the elective section for more information.

The natural progression of band, choir and strings is to take the beginner class then move on to the advanced class, should the student want to continue with the same musical path.

Elective Course Descriptions

Art 6, 7 - Enrollment open to 6th and 7th grade students

Art is designed to teach students the elements and principles of design. Students will have their own unique ways of expressing themselves and processing the information given. This class encompasses all types of learners, helping improve critical thinking and visual awareness. Various types of media will be available to the students, allowing them to creatively express themselves.

Advanced Band 7, 8 - Enrollment open to 7th and 8th grade

Band incorporates the study of selected music from various periods with the focus on excellence in performance level. Consideration is given to breath control, tone production, tonguing, phrasing, intonation and skills to perform with an ensemble. Band members perform with the FWC Cardinal Pep Band and with the high school band. They also participate in formal concerts and spring music festivals as part of a large group ensemble and may also participate in a solo or ensemble. The review and application of music notation with an instrument and the use of musical attributes used to make music “musical” with instruments are taught and applied in the classroom and encouraged to be practiced outside the classroom.

Beginner Choir 6, 7 – Enrollment open to 6th and 7th grade students

This course is designed to encourage the development of vocal performance in an ensemble setting. Song selections range from contemporary to classical pieces, allowing the student to experience all styles of music. A basic introduction to Music Theory will be included in this one semester elective.

Advanced Choir 7, 8 - Enrollment open to 6th (with approval) 7th and 8th grade

This course is designed to encourage the continued development of vocal performance in an ensemble setting. Song selections range from contemporary to classical pieces, allowing the student to experience all styles of music. Advanced choir will include the opportunity to perform in concerts both in chapel settings and evening performances.

Computer 6, 7 – Enrollment open to 6th and 7th grade students

Various applications, projects and simulations introduce students to the Macbook computer. This course uses: Mac OS X, Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides. Computer ethics is stressed and well as typing proficiency and vocabulary.

Home Economics 7, 8 - Enrollment open to all 7th and 8th grade students

The home economics course focuses on teaching Family Consumer Sciences from a Christian perspective. Units consist of child development, home and family living, a teen finance study, Christian character, nutrition, food service, cooking concepts and sewing basics. Students will cook a holiday meal for the faculty during the semester and sew a quilt. During the childcare unit students will take home a computer simulated “baby” to simulate what parenting involves.

Intro to Spanish 7 - Enrollment open to 7th grade students

Spanish meets two or three days a week to introduce the language to beginning level students. The course builds on skills learned previously and continues to develop the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in Spanish. Hispanic culture will also be introduced. Students considering taking Spanish I in eighth grade are strongly encouraged to take this course.

Study Skills 6, 7, 8 - Enrollment open to all students

This course is designed to help students develop and use study skills that will help them become successful learners. Daily activities will be tailored to fit the individual needs of each student. Students will learn various techniques that will be helpful to them throughout their academic years. Students will be allowed time in class to work on homework assignments and receive additional help on schoolwork, as needed. These components, as well as others, will be taught throughout the year: Time management and organization of materials, reading strategies and text structure, learning styles, note taking from a lecture and from text, goal setting related to academic study, memory, retention, and recall strategies, critical thinking skills, and clear and effective communication.

Robotics 6, 7, 8 - Enrollment open to all students

This course will build on the robotics experience in the elementary school and introduce students to higher level robotics at a competitive level that is used in our high school. Members of this class will also be part of the MS robotics team and will have the opportunity to participate in off-campus competitions using the machines they will be building in class.

Speech/Drama 7

Speech and Drama is equally divided during one semester. The first nine weeks trains students in both verbal and nonverbal communication through the use of dramatic techniques. Use of pantomime, improvisation, storytelling, and both solo and scene acting helps to prepare the student for public speaking; with the goal that they become competent and confident in front of an audience, whether making an announcement, an introduction or a speech. The second nine weeks is devoted to using knowledge learned in both visual art and drama for the production side of drama. This is when a student will design the costumes, makeup, set and lighting for a play that they studied during the first nine weeks. Students will draw schematics, and designs to depict the characters they studied about during their acting.

Advanced Strings 7, 8 – Enrollment open to 6th with approval - 7th and 8th grade

This course is for the student with a good understanding of playing technique, notes on at least three strings and comfortable with part-playing. Emphasis will be on ear-training, learning to tune your own instrument, part-playing, and music theory. Skills learned will culminate into several performances throughout the year, which will include music of different styles and time periods. Opportunities to play solos will be offered at least once a year. Students are graded on participation, mastery of stated skills and proficiency on assigned pieces.

Theater 6, 7, 8 - Enrollment open to all students

Theater class will focus on the skills and experience necessary for complete drama productions. Lighting, sound, staging, costumes, and sets design will all be included in this course. The theater class will produce several shorts shows each year, either shown during MS chapel or evening events.

Personal Finance 7, 8 - Enrollment open to 7th and 8th grade students

This course is based on Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University course but has been adapted for middle school students. It will lead students through Biblical understanding of financial truths. The curriculum covers saving, budgeting, credit, debit, entrepreneurship, investing, insurance, identity theft, marketing, consumerism, and global economics.

World Drumming 7, 8 - Enrollment open to all 7th and 8th grade students

World drumming is a fine arts class designed to be an introduction to many different percussion instruments from around the world. It is a cross-cultural curriculum including, but not limited to, African, Latin American, Asian and American traditional drumming and percussion techniques. Students will use all of the traditional percussion instruments including snare drum, conga, hand drum, can drums, talking drums and mallet instruments. Students will be required to provide a pair of drumsticks and a practice pad. This class begins with the fundamentals and progresses to several live performances toward the end of the semester.