

# **Yorkville Christian School**

## **Middle School Course Catalog: 23-24**

### **Grade 7**

#### **Bible**

The grade 7 curriculum has an emphasis on identity. Questions around:

How do I approach God?

How do I relate to God, myself and others?

...will be studied

#### **Language Arts**

We will focus on Literature, Grammar, and Writing. Through novels, short stories, literature circles, and independent reading, students will discover a love for literature while learning strategies to become stronger readers.

In addition, students will be able to:

- distinguish between different types of genres
- identify various types of figurative language
- identify/analyze important passages and interpret their significance
- understand and recognize different elements of literature
- identify elements and analyze poetry

Students will also have the opportunity to work across the curriculum using Literature to further enrich various units in History including Westward Expansion, WWII, and Civil Rights. Grammar concepts will be taught as we explore different forms of writing. Students will be able to properly construct sentences and paragraphs, while effectively expressing ideas in narrative, expository, and persuasive forms.

Students will also develop presentation and communication skills through various projects, presentations, and speeches.

#### **Math**

This course is designed to prepare students for high school mathematics courses. The course uses problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering, and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts.

#### **Science - Integrated 7**

This program puts exploration at the heart of science. Scientific inquiry encourages investigation, collaboration, and creativity. The blended print and digital curriculum apply scientific and engineering practices in problem-based scenarios. Students focus on analysis, critical thinking, and designing solutions as they explore real-world topics and everyday phenomena. It is a complete integrated Middle School Science Curriculum, which incorporates elements from the domains of Life, Earth, and Physical Sciences.

## **U.S. History - Year 1**

Beginning with an overview of the founding of our country and the Constitution, through expansion, the Civil War, America's rise as a world power and up to the beginnings of the twenty-first century students learn about the major political, economic and social changes that have shaped our nation. A Christian perspective is applied throughout the course as moral and ethical issues of our young nation emerge. A chronological approach incorporating primary source documentation reveals major themes of social and political significance and cultural change over time taking America from a scattered simple agricultural nation to complex cohesive military and industrial superpower.

## **Grade 8**

### **Bible**

The grade 8 curriculum has an emphasis on purpose. Questions on:

How do I make sense of the world?

Who do I follow?

...will be studied.

### **Language Arts**

Language Arts will continue to focus on strengthening students' skills and understanding in Literature, Grammar, and Writing. Through novels, short stories, literature circles, and independent reading, students will continue to develop a love for literature while learning strategies to become stronger readers. In addition, students will be able to:

- distinguish between different types of genres
- identify various types of figurative language
- identify/analyze important passages and interpret their significance
- understand and recognize different elements of literature
- identify elements and analyze poetry.

Students will also have the opportunity to work across the curriculum.

Grammar concepts will be taught as we explore different forms of writing. Students will be able to properly construct sentences and paragraphs, while effectively expressing ideas in narrative, expository, and persuasive forms. Students will also develop presentation and communication skills through various projects, presentations, and speeches.

### **Math**

This course is designed to prepare students for high school mathematics courses. The course uses problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering, and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts.

### **Science - Integrated 8**

This program puts exploration at the heart of science. Scientific inquiry encourages investigation, collaboration, and creativity. The blended print and digital curriculum apply scientific and engineering practices in problem-based scenarios. Students focus on analysis, critical thinking, and designing solutions as they explore real-world topics and everyday phenomena. It is a complete integrated Middle School Science Curriculum, which incorporates elements from the domains of Life, Earth, and Physical Sciences.

## **U.S. History - Year II**

During the first part of the school year, we continue our study of U.S. history. Then focus will be on the United States Constitution and the purpose for which it was written. In addition, the Presidency,

Congress, and the judicial branch are examined as to how each impacts the lives of individuals today. Students will need to pass a Constitution Test as well.

### **Middle School Exploratories**

Students will take part in various exploratory courses during their 2 years in middle school. These courses provide students with unique experiences in various areas:

#### **Ag: Exploring Food & Agriculture**

This exploration course provides the opportunity to learn fundamental concepts in agriculture to serve as a foundation for future courses and to inform students about the industry that is so vital to society and to their future. Major units of instruction include an introduction to the agricultural industry, animal science, plant science, horticulture science, agribusiness, environmental science, agricultural mechanics, food science, and leadership and personal development. Participation in FFA student organization activities is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration, and reinforcement of academic concepts.

#### **Art**

The visual art program develops students in the visual principles that God, as the Ultimate Creator, has set in place, and allows students to discover and develop their own God-given creativity. The program equips students with visual literacy and critical thinking skills, and exposes them to cultural, historic, and contemporary art perspectives. Additionally, hands-on learning experiences serve to further develop students' technical skills within an array of art materials.

#### **General Music**

General music is a semester-long class that introduces students to the basics of music. The goal of general music is to build a lifelong appreciation of various styles of music in an engaging and interactive classroom setting. In this course, you'll learn about how we hear music; how music affects our lives; essential elements of music like rhythm, pitch, harmony, and dynamics. Students get the opportunity to create music both collectively and individually by composing short rhythms and melodies and will also have the opportunity to utilize classroom instruments, helping to grow in their rhythmic, melodic, and performance knowledge. Students will also have the opportunity to research and learn about music history concepts and significant musical figures.

#### **Physical Education**

This course is divided by grade and includes small and large group team sports, skills and strategies necessary to maintain lifetime physical fitness, and application of social interaction to physical activities.

#### **Intro to Spanish I (Full Year Course)**

In this course students will learn to try new things and develop an appreciation for other languages and cultures. The goal is to learn to communicate, students will interact with other students in the class and with the instructor as they learn to express themselves about the weather, the classroom, things they like to do, their personalities, the world around them, food, hobbies, and more! Vocabulary and grammar will be our focus in this introduction to the language. Available for students in grades 7 and 8. Upon completion of this course during grades 7 and 8, students may be eligible to receive high school credit for Spanish I.