



Eastside Christian School

ECS CURRICULUM GUIDE

MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Classroom Structure: 7 class periods of 45 – 55 minutes daily (Bible, Language, History, Math, Science, plus two Elective/Exploration classes)

Student/Teacher Ratio: *20:1 or less on average

*Middle school core classes typically range from 12 to 25 students. Language Arts and Mathematics are given priority status for comparatively smaller class sizes. Some middle school teachers are able to utilize an allocation of instructional assistant time to further enhance the programming.

School Day 8:45 am – 3:15 pm
Lunch 35 minutes

LANGUAGE ARTS

Middle School

The 6th, 7th and 8th grade Language Arts classes use Houghton-Mifflin's *English 7* and *English 8* and Prentice Hall's *Literature Anthologies* (*Bronze* and *Silver* editions) textbooks, as well as the online *Wordly Wise 3000* vocabulary curriculum. After successfully completing these courses, students should be better able to

- **Read and comprehend texts of increasing complexity.** Students will be reading, discussing, and responding to selections from our **literature** and history textbooks; assigned novels, articles, and other materials; and some books and other texts of the student's own choosing. To aid students in developing their writing and reading comprehension skills, they will also be doing some **vocabulary** work throughout the year.
- **Speak and listen effectively.** As students learn to work with others, they will have opportunities to express and listen carefully to ideas, integrate information from oral, visual, and media sources, and evaluate what they hear. Students will also use technology, media, and visual displays strategically to communicate ideas and information through individual and group presentations.
- **Think critically.** Through wide and deep reading of literature and literary nonfiction of steadily increasing sophistication, students will gain a reservoir of literary and cultural knowledge, which they will use to evaluate complicated arguments and to comprehend and react to complex texts.
- **Write effectively and powerfully for a variety of purposes and audiences.** Students will write a number of essays/papers throughout the year, including expository, narrative, opinion, persuasive, descriptive, and imaginative writing assignments. The middle school language arts classes use the **6+1 Traits Writing** model to teach and assess the key qualities (listed below) that define strong writing. This model provides a common language for teachers and students to communicate about the characteristics of writing and establishes a clear vision of what good writing looks like. For more information, go to <http://educationnorthwest.org/traits>.

- **Ideas**, the main message
- **Organization**, the internal structure of the piece
- **Voice**, the personal tone and flavor of the author's message
- **Word Choice**, the vocabulary a writer chooses to convey meaning
- **Sentence Fluency**, the rhythm and flow of the language
- **Conventions**, the mechanical correctness (using the **English** textbook and other materials)
- **Presentation**, how the writing actually looks on the page

Note: The 7th and 8th grade Language Arts classes are integrated with the World History and Washington State/U.S. History classes. These history classes are taught in alternating years.

Middle School teachers use the Houghton Mifflin Language Program

Additional Materials include:

- Prentice Hall Literature Anthologies (Bronze and Silver Editions)
- Wordly Wise Vocabulary Online Curriculum

Reading/Spelling/Vocabulary:

- Oral Reading Fluency
- Weekly Spelling List-Test (6th grade only)
- Vocabulary Words-Definitions
- Poetry

Writing:

- Guided Creative Writing
- Writing Journals
- Short Stories & Letters
- Persuasive and Narrative Essays

MATH

Middle School

Saxon Pre-Algebra: We offer Saxon Courses 2 and 3 as our Pre-Algebra options. These courses cover all topics normally taught in pre-algebra as well as introductions to geometry and discrete mathematics (used in engineering and computer sciences). Through these two courses, students deepen their understanding of pre-algebraic topics. Saxon Courses 2 and 3 also provide instruction and enrichment on such topics as compressions, approximating roots, polynomials, and graphing.

Saxon Algebra I covers all topics in a first-year algebra course, from proofs, statistics, and probability to algebra-based real-world problems. With Algebra I, students begin developing the more complex understanding required for advanced mathematics.

Geometry covers all topics appropriate for a full-year, high school-level math class.

6th Grade Text: *To the Ends of the Earth*

This text provides an in-depth study of The Books of Acts for middle/junior high school students. Developed to engage students with the biblical text while directing them toward personal application of the command to take the gospel "to the ends of the earth." Contains helpful instructional aids and answers for student exercises. Students will end the course with a greater knowledge of and appreciation for the exciting birth and early years of the church.

7th/8th Grade Text: *Preparing for a Life of Ministry*

Seventh and eighth grade students will learn the basic principles and tools of inductive Bible study and become equipped in basic apologetics through addressing the most common issues/questions brought against the Bible and the Christian faith. Students will learn about their own spiritual gifts and how God desires to use them in ministering to others while experiencing the joy of service. An emphasis of the class will be discussion, projects, and activities centered on preparing to live actively for Jesus Christ.

Chapel program includes weekly worship, exposure to Christian beliefs, and a focus on monthly character traits. Monthly participation in our DEEP program provides additional understanding of the character traits and a wonderful multi-age team-building experience. Seventh and eighth grade students serve as DEEP group leaders, providing instruction to their multi-age group.

Middle school students perform required service hours. Students also participate in team-building retreats and an annual mission trip.

6th Grade Science: Purposeful Design curriculum written by a division of ACSI

In this extension of the elementary curriculum, students continue to develop a firm understanding of four key areas of scientific investigation: Life Science, Physical Science, Earth and Space Science, and Human Body.

Life Science: Classification of Organisms, Cell Processes, Heredity and Genetics

Physical Science: Periodic Table of the Elements, States of Matter, Fluids, Why Things Move

Earth and Space Science: Oceans in Motion, Rock Record, Violent Motions, Astronomy

Human Body: Interaction of Systems, Body Stewardship

7th and 8th Grade Science

Curriculum is presented on a rotation so that students will receive all of the education before graduating. We cover Health plus 3 of the following each year.

Cycle One:

Chemical Interactions: Students discover principles of chemistry and states of matter (FOSS Kit)

Light: Students explore and learn how to manipulate light, vision, perception (STC kit)

Force and Motion: Distance, speed, acceleration, force, gravity, and momentum are explored through hands-on labs in the classroom (FOSS kit)

Cycle Two:

Diversity of Life (FOSS kit) A biology unit where students learn about God's creations from microscopic creatures to more complex animals

Weather and Water (FOSS kit) A geology unit that focuses on Earth's uniqueness with liquid water and how weather is created, predicted, and observed

Working with Motors and Simple Machines (STC kit) A physics course that focuses on simple machines and motors. Students use K'NEX® to help them observe the difference that a simple machine can make on a workload.

Total Health: Talking About Life's Changes

Students in 7th Grade will cover the following chapters:

- The Power of Choice
- Human Biology
- Who Am I?
- Let's Talk About Success
- Building Strong Friendships

Students in 8th Grade will cover the following chapters:

- Nutrition: Entering the Food Zone
- Fitness and Exercise
- Diseases: The Body Under Attack
- The 7 Habits of Highly Popular Teens
- Living the Supernatural High

HISTORY

Middle School

6th - New World History and Geography

This exciting text presents the history and geography of North and South America from a Christian perspective, including both the Native American and European heritage of the New World. It follows an organized, regional progression as it leads students on a tour of the western hemisphere. This text contains a world atlas with physical and political maps.

7th/8th Grade World History

In this class we will study the history of the world from the beginning of the Roman Empire to the Age of Exploration. Special emphasis will be given to the history of the Christian church and looking for God's hand in the events of world history. We also try to see connections between the events of the past and issues facing the world today. Current and historical issues will be discussed from a biblical perspective. The textbook used in this class is McGraw-Hill's **World History and Geography** (online textbook). We also use several supplementary materials, including the Bible and items produced by Christian organizations.

7th/8th Grade Washington State/United States History

This course begins with a study of our nation's founding documents, including the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution. After examining the basic workings of our federal government, we will then study our state government and the history of our great state. During the second trimester, we will study the events leading to the American Civil War, the war itself, and the period of Reconstruction. During the third trimester, we will study the Age of Industry, the great wave of immigration, and how America became a world power. We will also examine the various social issues facing the nation during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including child labor. Special emphasis will be given to the history of the Christian church and looking for God's hand in the events of American history. We also try to see connections between the events of the past and issues facing our nation today. Current and historical issues will be discussed from a biblical perspective. The texts used in the class include ***Our Northwest Heritage*** (published by Sound Summit Books), and McGraw-Hill's ***United States History and Geography*** (online textbook). We also use several supplementary materials, including the Bible and items produced by Christian organizations.

Note: *World History and Washington State/U.S. History are taught in alternating years.*