



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: *22:1

*Middle school core classes typically range from 10 to 20 students. Some middle school teachers are able to utilize an allocation of instructional assistant time to further enhance the programming.

School Day 8:40 am – 3:15 pm
Lunch 30 minutes

LANGUAGE ARTS Middle School

MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS classes cover the following areas of study:

LITERATURE – SpringBoard English Language Arts

SpringBoard is an instructional program for grades 6-12, developed by teachers for teachers. It offers core instructional materials that are aligned to College and Career Readiness Standards, Advanced Placement (AP) coursework, and the SAT Suite of Assessments. Reading from a variety of high-quality texts, students practice critical reading skills, independent reading, and reading to build knowledge.

The following novels are among those incorporated into the literature curriculum in the following grades:

6 th grade:	Johnny Tremain The Giver	by Esther Forbes by Lois Lowry
7 th grade:	A Wrinkle in Time Pilgrim’s Progress	by Madeline L’Engle retold by Gary D. Schmidt
8 th grade:	Nothing but the Truth Animal Farm The Hiding Place	by Avi by George Orwell by Corrie Ten Boom

SPELLING AND VOCABULARY – SpringBoard and Membean

SpringBoard incorporates spelling and vocabulary throughout its curriculum. We will also use Membean, an online vocabulary tool that adapts to each student’s vocabulary. Short weekly spelling tests will also be given on high-frequency words that are easily misspelled.

GRAMMAR – SpringBoard and Houghton Mifflin English

SpringBoard incorporates grammar into its curriculum. When more direct instruction is needed, we will work from the Houghton Mifflin English curriculum.

WRITING – SpringBoard and Lucy Calkins Writing Curriculum

As students read a variety of texts while using the SpringBoard curriculum, they will often be given the opportunity to practice writing in those same genres. The entire school (K-8) has also adopted a new writing curriculum developed by Lucy Calkins which emphasizes a writing process approach.

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.

Algebra II: Saxon Algebra II covers the essential topics for an Algebra II course and reviews essentials from Algebra I. The student is encouraged to use supplementary materials with the text.

6th Grade Text: Deep Roots

Sixth-grade Bible curriculum is provided by Deep Roots Bible Curriculum for a Defendable Faith (www.deeprootsbible.com). Students learn from Jesus in the gospels and then move on to the epistles, the letters that were circulated among new believers and churches during New Testament times. Students also study the end times and the book of Revelation in our bonus units. Students become proficient in using the Inductive Bible Study method as a framework to observe, interpret, and apply the Scriptures. Deep Roots also includes Scripture Memory Passages and, in their study of Apologetics and World Views, seeks to equip students to defend their faith.

7th Grade Text: Old Testament Bible

Seventh-grade Bible is a deep dive into the Old Testament using a storyline approach to studying scripture. Along the way, students sharpen their inductive Bible study skills, learn valuable apologetic arguments for their faith in Jesus, and focus on developing a vibrant devotional life that includes daily time in prayer and God's Word.

8th Grade Text: New Testament Bible

Eighth-grade Bible continues the storyline approach to studying the Bible, diving deep into New Testament writings and making connections to the Old Testament. Along the way, students begin to explore and develop healthy spiritual rhythms and habits of daily prayer and scripture reading. Students are also exposed to various forms of Christian worship, ancient creeds, and church traditions that serve to enhance both their knowledge of Christianity and their personal walks with Christ. Finally, students explore their own uniqueness, their spiritual gifts, and God's calling on their lives.

Our chapel program includes weekly worship, age-relevant and applicable Bible teaching, and exposure to Christian beliefs. Monthly participation in our ACTS program provides additional understanding of godly character traits. In this elective class, middle schoolers develop video and theme-based activities to help reinforce chapel themes in our elementary classrooms.

Middle school students also participate in team-building retreats and an annual community service event.

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

Health: Interaction of Systems, Body Stewardship

7th and 8th Grade Science

Curriculum is presented on a rotation so students complete all units of MS Science before graduating. We use FOSS Curriculum kits for science and Purposeful Design's *Total Health* for the health lessons.

Rotation A:

Diversity of Life: Students look at God's creation from most basic forms of life to more complex organisms.

Weather and Water: Students gain an understanding of the importance of water on our planet and how weather is studied and predicted worldwide.

Waves/Electromagnetic Force: In this combined lesson, students learn how waves transmit energy and how cell phones work. They create simple circuits, measure magnetic fields, and discover other wonderful physics phenomena.

Rotation B:

Chemical Interactions: Students discover principles of chemistry and states of matter.

Gravity & Kinetic Energy: Students explore the laws of gravity and how kinetic energy transfers from one object to another.

Planetary Science: Students learn about the Earth/Moon/Sun system and use knowledge of our solar system to understand the bigger scope of the Universe.

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

6th Grade History

In 6th Grade History, we will follow the history of North and South America from the First Nations peoples through the 19th century. The textbook covers the Canadian provinces, United States geography and cultures by region, U.S. history in chronological order, and the history and geography of Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. The study of geography will help us to understand history even better because it tells us about the places where history has happened. Special emphasis will be given to 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. Throughout the year, students will complete a number of activities and projects to help them to develop strong skills in writing, reading, oral communication, and critical thinking. The primary resources used in this class include our textbook, **New World History & Geography in Christian Perspective** (published by Abeka), **Junior Scholastic Magazine**, and **United States History: Origins to 2000** (DVD series by the Library Video Company).

7th/8th Grade - World History

In this class we will study the history the world from Creation to the Rise of Christianity. Special emphasis will be given to looking for God's hand in the events of world history. We will examine reasons for studying history and how to think like a historian. We will learn about physical geography and how it influences the way people live and study. We will see how learning about a people's economic system can help us to understand their priorities, values, and governmental policies. We will explore what it means to be a good citizen as we seek to carry out the Great Commission. Current and historical issues will be discussed from a biblical perspective as we try to see connections between the events of the past and issues facing our nation and the world today. Throughout the year, students will complete a number of activities and projects to help them to develop strong skills in writing, reading, oral communication, and critical thinking. The resources used in this class include McGraw-Hills' **Discovering Our Past: A History of the World, The Holy Bible, Drive Thru History** (a Christian DVD series by ColdWater Media), **Life in the Middle Ages** (DVD series by the Library Video Company), **Junior Scholastic Magazine**, and a variety of biographical or history-related videos. Where necessary and appropriate, we will supplement our textbook with articles and books from Christian writers.

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

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

This course begins with the study of Washington State History, including the important contributions made by missionaries and other Christians in the Pacific Northwest and by the native tribes as well. We will examine our nation's founding documents and the basic workings of our federal and state governments, which will include a tour of our state capitol. We will later shift our focus to United States history, beginning with the events leading to the American Civil War, the war itself, and the period of Reconstruction. We will then move on to the Age of Industry, the great wave of immigration, and America's emergence as 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 and the living conditions in America's growing cities. Special emphasis will be given to 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. Throughout the year, students will complete a number of activities and projects to help them to develop strong skills in writing, reading, oral communication, and critical thinking. The primary resources used in this class include **Our Northwest Heritage** (published by Sound Summit Books), McGraw-Hill's **Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States, Junior Scholastic Magazine, United States History: Origins to 2000** (DVD series by the Library Video Company), and **The Civil War: A Film by Ken Burns** (DVD series by PBS).

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