



Eastside Christian School

ECS CURRICULUM GUIDE

MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERVIEW

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

Student/Teacher Ratio: 22:1
(Core classes typically range from 10 to 20 students.)

School Day 8:40 am – 3:20 pm
Morning Devotions and Break 30 minutes
Lunch 25 minutes

LANGUAGE ARTS Middle School

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, reading to build knowledge, and literary analysis.

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

- 6th grade: ***Out of My Mind*** by Sharon Draper
- 7th grade: ***Tangerine*** by Edward Bloor
Wink by Rob Harrell
- 8th grade: ***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry
The Odyssey retold by Gareth Hines (graphic novel)

Students also select an independent novel during Trimester One.

SPELLING AND VOCABULARY

SpringBoard incorporates spelling and vocabulary (literary and academic terms) throughout its curriculum. We also use Membean, an individualized online tool that adapts to each student’s vocabulary level.

GRAMMAR – *SpringBoard*

SpringBoard incorporates grammar lessons and exercises into its curriculum.

WRITING and PRESENTING – *SpringBoard, Writing Prompts, Culminating Projects and Book Reviews*

Students read a variety of texts while using the SpringBoard curriculum and are often asked to write reflections in response. Regular writing prompts allow the students to free-write on a variety of topics of personal interest. Culminating projects (two per trimester) and classroom/independent reading assignments incorporate a significant amount of writing, along with research, imagination, and higher-level thinking. Up-front presentations are assigned each trimester to strengthen verbal communication.

Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry

ECS uses the enVision curriculum from Savvas Learning Company to teach **Pre-Algebra** (6th/7th), **Algebra I** (7th/8th), and **Geometry**. enVision combines problem-based learning and visual learning to make math relevant to students. High-interest math projects offer unique math experiences and new resources encourage student choice and support learning both in the classroom and at home.

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 and training to lead small groups of elementary students from K-2nd or 3rd-5th.

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

6th Grade: Life Science

This one-year life science course provides an introduction of selected components of Biology, grounded in a Biblical worldview. The course provides critical thinking skills, educated analyses, and opportunities for negotiating faith and science. The class is designed with daily activities, hands-on labs and projects, and discussions that should make it fun as well as challenging. In this course, students will study:

- Matter and Energy in Ecosystems
- Dynamic Ecosystems

- Biodiversity in Ecosystems
- Cells and Life
- Body Systems
- Reproduction of Organisms
- Natural Selection and Adaptations
- Evidence of Evolution (Worldview presented alongside a Biblical viewpoint)

Textbook: McGraw-Hill, *Inspire Life Science & Function* (2020), ISBN: 978-0-07-688399-8

Access to the textbook and all supplemental materials are found at: my.mheducation.com and on our Class Teams account.

7th Grade: Physics

This one-year course will guide students through basic concepts of physics. They will learn the laws that govern movement in creation. We will learn more about the scientists who discovered these laws, their works, and their theories. We will have regular hands-on activities to help further understand these topics. In this course, students will study:

- The Nature of Science
- Motion and Forces
- Energy
- Waves

Textbook: McGraw-Hill, *Inspire Physical Science* (2021), ISBN: 978-0-07-695845-0

Access to the textbook and all supplemental materials are found at: my.mheducation.com.

8th Grade: Chemistry

This one-year course provides an introduction to Chemistry. Students will learn the various states of matter, understand the Periodic Table of the Elements, and be able to explain how bonds are formed through various types of reactions. Students will have regular hands-on learning opportunities to help them better understand the subject matter. In this course, students will study:

- Matter
- Reactions
- Applications of Chemistry

Textbook: McGraw-Hill, *Inspire Physical Science* (2021), ISBN: 978-0-07-695845-0

Access to the textbook and all supplemental materials are found at: my.mheducation.com.

HISTORY

Middle School

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), and *Junior Scholastic Magazine*.

7th/8th Grade - World History

In this class we will study the history of the world from Ancient Civilizations (Mesopotamia), moving forward to the start of the Cold War. 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-Hill's *Discovering Our Past: A History of the World* and *Junior Scholastic Magazine*.

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. 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 McGraw-Hill's *Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States*, and *Junior Scholastic Magazine*.

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