

*Cornerstone Christian School*  
**Middle School**  
**Program of Studies**

**Required Courses**

| 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade    |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Bible                 | Bible                 | Algebra I or Pre-Algebra |
| Choir                 | Choir                 | Bible                    |
| Earth Science         | Civics                | Choir                    |
| Language Arts         | Language Arts         | Language Arts 8          |
| Math                  | Life Science          | Physical Education       |
| Physical Education    | Math                  | Physical Science         |
| Spanish               | Missions              | Spanish I [Part 2]       |
| Speech Communication  | Physical Education    | Speech Communication     |
| Study Skills          | Spanish I [Part 1]    | Technology               |
| Technology            | Speech Communication  | World Geography          |
| US History [Part 2]   | Technology            |                          |

**Ministry Classes**

| 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade<br>Rotation | 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade<br>Electives | 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade<br>Electives |                     |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Art                               | Musical Theater                    | Art  | Spanish Helper      |
| Cooking                           | Spanish Helper                     | Calligraphy  | Stage/Tech Crew     |
| Drama                             | Stage/Tech Crew                    | Cooking  | Student Assistant   |
| Photography                       | Student Assistant                  | Photography  | Tutorial/Study Hall |
| Sewing                            | Tutorial/Study Hall                | Drama Outreach   | Tech Assistant      |
| Worship                           |                                    | Millionaire Challenge                                  | Wilderness Basics   |
|                                   |                                    | Musical Theater  | Worship             |
|                                   |                                    | Mystery Players  |                     |

# Required Courses

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Bible 6**

Sixth grade Bible class is based on *Decision Quest* curriculum. This year focuses on the basic truths of the Bible in relation to God, His Word, mankind, sin, salvation and Jesus Christ. It uses a variety of Bible study methods to help students learn for themselves. After gleaning the basic truths of their study, students are challenged to think through personal application to their daily lives.

### **Choir**

Choir is an important piece of our school. Our students love to sing! All students take this class from K - 8th grade, with difficulty of music and voice parts increasing with age. We believe that worshipping God through singing is an important part of our Christian walk.

### **Earth Science**

In Earth Science, students study the earth and the universe surrounding it. Major themes include: geology, water, meteorology and astronomy.

### **Language Arts 6**

Elements such as journaling, literature, writing, grammar and vocabulary will be combined to effectively teach the students to use English as a tool to win people to Christ and bring honor to God.

### **Math 6**

Math 6 solidifies everything students learned in elementary school and takes it a little deeper. As students hone their math skills in Math 6, they continue to build a strong foundation that will prepare them to begin pre-Algebra in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Physical Education 6**

PE involves a wide variety of physical activities aimed primarily at helping the student to develop a healthy and active lifestyle and familiarity with a broad spectrum of games and sports. For sixth graders, sports of focus are soccer, gymnastics and croquet.

### **Spanish 6**

Using the Rosetta Stone computer program, students will develop an understanding of basic Spanish vocabulary and structure. Additional topics studied are numbers, alphabet, Latin American countries, family vocabulary and subject pronouns.

### **Speech Communication 6**

This is a supplement to Language Arts, providing students with opportunities to gain confidence in speaking before an audience. Through various speeches, oral activities, testimonies and presenting the gospel, students develop the necessary skills to become effective communicators.

## **Study Skills**

Study Skills is a class that assists students in learning the organizational skills needed to successfully make the transition from elementary school to middle school.

## **US History [Part 2]**

Using a variety of methods and media, students will cover the fundamental elements of the United States history from 1870 to the present.

## **Technology 6**

Students will learn about the basic hardware parts of the computer and how each works separately, as well as together. A basic overview of Power Point and Word will be taught, as well as keyboarding skills.

# **7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

## **Bible 7**

Bible class is based on *Decision Quest* curriculum and challenges students to make wise decisions by applying the truth of God's Word to their lives. Topics include: The Holy Spirit, personal growth, the church, spiritual warfare and the end times.

## **Choir**

Choir is an important piece of our school. Our students love to sing! All students take this class from K - 8th grade, with difficulty of music and voice parts increasing with age. We believe that worshipping God through singing is an important part of our Christian walk.

## **Civics**

Civics covers the history of American democracy with an emphasis on colonial America, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, immigration, citizenship and our system of free elections. The policies of our two political parties are a focus, especially during election years.

## **Language Arts 7**

Elements such as journaling, literature, writing, grammar and vocabulary will be combined to effectively teach the students to use English as a tool to win people to Christ and bring honor to God.

## **Life Science**

Life Science is the study of living things. Students will study cells, scientific classification, plants, animals, genetics, ecology and the human body.

## **Math 7**

In Math 7, students will incrementally move from learning more general math skills to the wonderful world of Algebra. Students who perform exceptionally well in this course may take Algebra 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, upon the recommendation of parents and teachers.

## **Missions**

This class is designed to help 7th graders form a foundation in ministry outreach to people in short term missions. Skills are developed in art ministry, drama, testimony sharing, leading group devotions, puppet ministry, scrap-booking and developing a servant's heart.

## **Physical Education 7**

This class involves a wide variety of physical activities aimed primarily at helping the student to develop a healthy and active lifestyle and familiarity with a broad spectrum of games and sports. For seventh graders, sports of focus are ultimate Frisbee, volleyball and baseball.

## **Spanish I [Part 1]**

Using the textbook *iVen Conmigo!* students work through the first half of a high school level Spanish class. This class includes many opportunities to interact and to create projects using the vocabulary from the textbook, as well as more traditional written activities.

## **Technology**

Students will continue to develop basic concepts of computer usage and keyboarding skills while learning more advanced concepts about the internet and its technology. Also, basic internet research concepts will be covered.

# **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

## **Algebra I**

Students who perform exceptionally well in Math 7 may take Algebra 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, upon the recommendation of parents and teachers. Algebra 1 covers topics typically covered in a first-year Algebra course. Therefore, if students do well in this class, they should be able to test out of the high school Algebra 1 course.

## **Pre-Algebra**

Pre-Algebra students will strengthen their foundation in math in preparation for taking Algebra 1 in high school. Students will take this class based on their 7th grade math performance and recommendation of the 7th grade math teacher and their parents.

## **Bible 8**

Using the *Lightbearers* curriculum, this class will teach students to see life's big picture as they develop their own biblical worldview. It also shows how the Bible provides answers to life's important questions, and demonstrates that ideas have consequences. The goal is to help students understand the world around them, and to train them to live out the Truth. Concepts discussed include Post-Modernism, Philosophy, Truth, Reason, Ethics, Morality, Theology, Biology, Psychology, Society, and Government and Law.

## **Choir**

Choir is an important piece of our school. Our students love to sing! All students take this class from K - 8th grade, with difficulty of music and voice parts increasing with age. We believe that worshipping God through singing is an important part of our Christian walk.

## **Language Arts 8**

Elements such as journaling, literature, writing, grammar and vocabulary will be combined to effectively teach the students to use English as a tool to win people to Christ and bring honor to God. Emphasis in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be on conducting research and writing a paper that is factual and well supported.

## **Physical Education 8**

PE involves a wide variety of physical activities aimed primarily at helping the student to develop a healthy and active lifestyle and familiarity with a broad spectrum of games and sports. For eighth graders, sports of focus are football, basketball and bocce ball.

## **Physical Science**

In eighth grade, students are introduced to the two major branches of physical science: chemistry and physics. In the first semester, students will study how atoms, molecules and chemicals interact with each other. During the second semester, students will study matter, energy, motion and forces.

## **Spanish I [Part 2]**

We are getting ready to go to Mexico City! This is a big year for the eighth graders. They take everything they have learned throughout the years and have the blessing of putting it into action in the mission trip. The students also continue working with the textbook *iVen Conmigo!*. Students may earn a high school credit for this class.

## **Speech Communication 78**

In this supplement to Language Arts, students learn speech and leadership skills as they conduct class sessions themselves with guidance from their teacher. Students will learn: speech preparation and presentation, how to conduct meetings, effective listening skills, how to evaluate and offer helpful advice, as well as how to participate in and lead group discussions or meetings.

## **Technology**

Students will continue to develop and refine what was learned in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. A focus on computer and media ethics and letter writing will be covered as well.

## **World Geography**

A study of geography requires knowledge of why things are located in particular places and how those places influence our lives. By studying these themes, students will understand geographic information and gain a better appreciation of cultural, spiritual and environmental differences around the world. This class is based on the 2008 Virginia Standards of Learning. Students who transfer to a public high school will need to take the World Geography SOL exam and may earn a high school credit for this class.

# Middle School Ministry Classes

## **Art 6**

Students will learn basic art skills, along with new, exciting skills that will bring out the creative artist in them!

## **Art 78**

This class will include a review of basic art principles. Lessons will be geared towards the creative interests of each individual class. Students in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters will have the opportunity to help with musical theatre set design.

## **Millionaire Challenge 78**

Have you ever given any thought to what God could do *through* you if you were a millionaire? Whether God entrusts you with a million or a hundred dollars, what will you do with it? In The Millionaire Challenge class, students will learn the challenges of earning money, managing it, and using it to be a blessing to others. Students will create their own businesses, learn financial principles and earn money to benefit both themselves and our school. In an additional challenge, students will compete for a fantastic prize which will be awarded to the student with the greatest profit earned during the semester.

## **Calligraphy 78**

Calligraphy is the art form of "beautiful writing". In the first half of the class, we will cover a basic overview on the history, terminology, tools, and techniques of this art form. In the second half, the students will begin working on their final project. For the final project, students will research one of four main cultures: Western European, East Asian, South Asian, and Middle Eastern, then present a paper and visual example of that culture's calligraphy. Patience and attention to detail will be required for each class period.

## **Cooking**

Students have the opportunity to learn the basics of cooking. A variety of recipes are tried and students share their creations with others.

## **Photo Editing 78**

The Photo Editing class will focus on modifying and using digital photos. The class has two main components: digital editing and student projects. A variety of editing techniques will be used by the students to enhance composition, increase quality, and maximize the creativity of their photos. Projects created during the class may include collages, slideshows, photo books, digital scrapbooks and posters. The class will be held in the computer lab. Students will need a USB key and access to digital pictures.

## **Drama 6**

Drama class gives students the opportunity to portray characters in short skits that teach Christian concepts. Students learn basic acting skills and skit direction, as well as costume and set design. Skits are performed in class, at the middle school retreat, in chapel and at school programs.

## **Drama Outreach 78**

In this class, students will be preparing evangelistic skits to perform as part of their outreach on their spring missions trips. 7th grade will learn skits for the Sunday morning service at Landstown Community church in Virginia Beach, Va and 8th grade will be learning different skits and mimes in Spanish for their trip to Mexico.

## **Musical Theater**

Broadway, here we come! Musical Theater class is designed to bring our middle school students' talents together through drama, song and dance. Students will work toward a common goal to present a Broadway musical jr. in the spring. Class will be biblically integrated and proceeds will be given to a local or worldwide charity. Actors will go through an audition process during the first quarter.

## **Mystery Players**

We will be learning a mystery/comedy to perform at a fundraising dinner the end of October. Students will have fun interacting with our audience in a "whodunit" mystery. The ending, however, will be a creative spiritual wake-up call. Most plays of this nature have a cast of 9 -10 students, making this a competitive class! Students who do not make the cast will be invited to help with tech, costumes, make-up and serve our guests the night of the play.

\* Class will be limited to 15 students.

## **Sewing 6**

Students learn the basics of sewing...sewing on a button and using a sewing machine. Students make a goody bag to fill and give to a homeless person in Washington, D.C. on their mission trip.

## **Spanish Helper**

Being a Spanish helper allows students to use the Spanish skills they are acquiring and gives them the opportunity to interact with younger children as they accompany the Spanish teacher to an elementary classroom and assist in teaching Spanish.

## **Stage/Tech Crew**

Students who enjoy the technical side of theater will enjoy this quarter of supporting the production of the musical theater in areas that include working with the sound system, lighting and stage set up.

## **Student Assistant**

Students will have the opportunity to assist teachers in elementary and middle school classrooms during the elective period.

## **Tech Assistant**

Students will assist the Tech Coordinator in all things technology. Students will learn about all the hardware and software the school uses, and then use that knowledge to maintain and problem solve some of the technology needs of the school. Some examples include tech needs for chapel, computer lab, and various classes in the school.

### **Tutorial/Study Hall**

This class is offered to provide students with a designated time each week to work on organization, homework, projects, and class assignments under teacher supervision and direction.

### **Wilderness Basics**

Wilderness Basics is an elective that will teach wilderness survival skills. During the nine class course, the student will learn various skills such as fire and shelter building, tracking, navigation and using a knife properly. The student will keep a small journal/sketch book to take notes on the various skills learned. The majority of classes, if not all, will be held outside on the campus property. Each class builds on the previous week's class. Not only will wilderness skills be taught, but there will be a focus on some spiritual themes as well.

### **Worship 6**

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade worship class, students learn about the heart of worship, and how to live with purity, passion and purpose for God.

### **Worship 78**

In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade worship class, students continue to learn about the heart of worship, and how to live with purity, passion and purpose for God. Students will also learn how to be part of a worship team that leads their peers in cutting edge worship music during chapel.