



2023-2024
Rainier Christian Middle School
Course Catalogue

“Educating and Developing the Whole Person for the Glory of God”

Core Classes

Bible

Bible:

In Middle School Bible we will explore God’s word and discover who He is and who He has created us to be. We will survey the entire Old and New Testaments and apply God’s teachings to our everyday lives. All in an attempt to strengthen our relationships with God, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

English

English 7:

Are you ready to immerse yourself in literature and storytelling? In this course you will spend the year discussing characters and analyzing literature with peers in student led class discussions. You will be reading 7 different chapter books this year including *Treasure Island*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, and *Hatchet*. You will also spend time improving your own writing and grammar skills through creative, reflective, and research-based writing assignments.

English 8:

In 8th grade you will continue to expand on your knowledge of literature and vocabulary. In this course you will read books with more complex themes such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Red Scarf Girl*, and *The Outsiders*. Altogether, you will encounter a variety of literature through chapter books. You will practice articulating your opinion in group discussions and improve your presentation, public speaking, and critical thinking skills.

Mathematics

Algebra:

In Algebra 1, students will build on their math skills by using variables, algebraic expressions, equations, functions, inequalities, and graphing. Students will learn to apply these skills to real-world problems and authentic scenarios. Algebra 1 lays a critical foundation to support student learning across the sequence of subsequent math courses.

Math 7:

In Math 7, students build and develop their math skills using number systems, operations, variables, proportional thinking, equations and inequalities, graphical displays, non-routine problems, and explore authentic scenarios through probability and statistics. Successful completion of Math 7 prepares students for Pre-Algebra.

Pre-Algebra:

In Pre-Algebra, you will incorporate previous mastery concepts including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions and integers into the study of algebraic principles and properties. You will simplify, write, and evaluate algebraic expressions before transitioning into writing and solving multi-step equations and inequalities. Generating and interpreting equations and inequalities graphically leads to solving systems of equations. These skills learned will serve as the basic foundation of supporting your mathematics learning throughout high school.

Physical Education

Physical Education (PE):

Take a break from the rigors of classroom academics and engage in physical activities that will enhance your physical and mental capacity in the classroom. Studies show that physical exercise serves to increase mental focus and cognitive learning. Students will be introduced to a wide variety of sports and games to understand the play, rules and abilities needed to collaboratively participate and compete in a way that will honor Christ, build character and increase their skill level across the board. In addition, Physical Education will prepare one for life-long fitness, bringing students the opportunity to “honor God with their bodies”.

Science

General Science 7:

Welcome to the beginning of general science! In this course you will go beyond the science you have learned in the past to better understand the how's and whys of the physical world God has created, the organisms He has made, and physics of the universe He reigns. You will create models that teacher scientific findings, design experiments, and test theories. As we study many different aspects of science from a biblical worldview, you may find just the thing God is calling you to serve in!

General Science 8:

This is the beginning of the end of general science! In this course you will use the knowledge you have gained thus far to new areas of study in physics, chemistry, earth and life sciences. We will focus on developing our knowledge and skills to practice good and wise dominion over the universe God has created.

Social Studies

US History:

In this course we rewind back to the beginning. In this course we see America at its start and see how its foundational values were laid. We examine the solid foundations of our republic and how its character was forged in the heat and conflict of a revolution. We will lay the cornerstone and examine our laws, political system and constitution to help guide our country's

development. We will begin construction in 1787 and see how the tiny country survives and grows from a collection of states to a nation with a special and unique identity all its own. We will end the course with the ultimate test. A civil war. Can the new nation survive when it goes to war against itself? Can a house divided continue to stand? Let's find out as we explore early U.S History together.

Washington State History:

Washington State is a highly diverse, innovative and creative place to live in and learn about. In this course you will learn to climb to the highest peak of understanding about the state you live in. In week 1 we survey the land learning about the unique geographical features of Washington and the Pacific Northwest. In the following weeks you will tour basecamp by examining the various interesting and compelling native cultures that have called Washington home for centuries. Here, we start the uphill climb towards statehood. Along the way we pass the crevasses of war and conflict between Washington's earliest settlers. We emerge into a forest ripe for harvesting. Large timbers ready to be the foundation of a state's economy. Finally as we gather altitude above the tree line, we see the whole state laid out before us. We can see Washington its challenges, resources and values at the base behind us and innovation, creativity and industry on the final approach through the 20th century and we reach the summit to see the unique and wonderful state we live in today. Will you make the trek?

World Geography:

The study of World Geography focuses on the relationships among people, places, and environments that result in geographic patterns on the earth. The students will use geographic methods to compare and analyze landforms, climates, and natural resources, as well as cultural, political, economic, and religious characteristics of the world regions, all from a Christian perspective. Students will use a variety of sources, both primary and secondary, such as maps, digital images, and documents to learn about the geography of different world regions.

Electives

Choir:

Bring your voices and apply skills to create and experience a musical ensemble. Learn to convey musical interpretation with the use of dynamics and phrasing, while incorporating facial expression and movement for refined presentation. Student will understand how a musical composition is structured through listening and analysis, and identify repetition in musical scores aurally and visually.

Guitar:

Come learn one of the most common and versatile instruments in modern music! The guitar course will cover the basics of both Acoustic and Electric guitar. Branching pathways pursue chord playing, melodic phrasing, rhythm, music theory, composition techniques, and cooperative skill development which translate into skills used in many other educational settings! One of the main focuses of this course is building up independence so students can take the skills they learn over the year and continue their education and skill development on their own beyond the classroom. All students of all skill levels are welcome; and a differentiated course model will challenge all students, no matter their background in music and guitar. No instruments are required! We have plenty of instruments at school; however you are welcome to bring your own as well!

Homeroom:

Hey Mustangs! In homeroom you will work together to learn organization, study, and leadership skills, as well as participate in team/community building, and service projects. Your homeroom will also form your Mustang group! This will build our framework for healthy composition, service opportunities, and social events with other Mustang groups. Homeroom will help you become a student of excellence, who serves God with excellence!

Intro to Art/Art History:

In this course you will be encouraged to embrace creativity through collaboration, experimentation, and independent work. You will be introduced to skills to be able to express yourself and convey emotion through visual art and gain an understanding of why art is so important to all areas of our life including history, love, politics, and religion.

Intro to Spanish:

This class will introduce you to beginning conversational Spanish and the cultures of Spanish speakers around the world. You will learn to introduce yourself and talk about your likes and dislikes. Vocabulary includes animals, foods, pastimes, etc. Units include topics such as festivals, food, music, famous artists, history, geography, literature and wildlife. This course rotates A and B year so students can enroll in both 7th and 8th grades and have a different experience.

Worship:

Are you interested in Worship Ministry, Music and Sound Technology? This course is a great opportunity to put your talents to good use! The Worship Team course unites folks from all backgrounds under the common goal of preparing and leading a worship service and growing spiritually as a team. Not a singer? That's okay! We invite all with an interest in playing instruments, singing, running sound or running visuals and lighting to join us. We have fun, and we get the job done in this highly interactive course!

Yearbook:

In Yearbook class students will practice a variety of skills: photography, journalism, editing, interviewing, etc. Although our main goal is to produce the Middle School Yearbook, we also publish a monthly newspaper and compile the slideshow for 8th grade promotion.