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## 25-26 6th-8th Grade Highlights

### **Mission Statement:**

“Raising up families and followers of Jesus Christ.”

Our students receive an excellent Christ-centered education, learning to take charge of their growth while being prepared for success in any high school. Our program includes:

### **Theology:**

Theology in the middle school consists of a mix of Theology classes, Biblical Character Formation (from the *Friendzy* curriculum, led by Pastor Strand), and worship in weekly chapel services.

- 5th/6th Grade: Theology class is on a two-year rotation using the Bible Replay curriculum and other sources:
  - 5th grade: focuses on the first 5 books of the Bible and heroes of the Old Testament
  - 6th grade: focuses on the life of Christ in the Gospel of John.
- 7th/8th Grade: Theology class for grades 7 & 8 utilizes two years to work through *Wise Up: Wisdom in Proverbs* (from Positive Action for Christ). The focus in this practical discussion-based class is on Christian living by engaging God’s truths found in the book of Proverbs.

### **Language Arts:**

(taught as two classes: Writing/Grammar and Reading/Vocabulary)

- In Writing class, students develop their writing skills through direct grammar lessons, prompts, essays, and creative stories (including one-act plays). Grammar for Writing (from Sadlier) is our Common Core, state-aligned curriculum used in grades 6 to 8.
- Novel studies are also a part of Language Arts – titles for each grade can include:
- 6th grade: *Holes*, *Freak the Mighty*, and/or *Maniac Magee*
- 7th & 8th grade: *Animal Farm*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Outsiders*, and/or *The Westing Game*
- In Reading class, students use the Short Story of the Month curriculum from Lovin Lit to engage all Common Core fiction and non-fiction standards for reading. Reading class also includes online vocabulary mastery through InferCabulary.
- We also have a focus on creating lifelong learners, so students explore all genres through their independent choice reading from an extensive classroom library to build their fluency and enjoyment as readers. Students complete the 10 Genre Challenge annually, and several also finish the 40 Book Challenge.

### **Math:**

- The following topics are covered in 6th Grade Math: rational numbers; numeric & algebraic expressions; solving equations & inequalities; using ratio, rate, & percent; solving area, surface area, & volume; and display, description, & summarization of data.
- The following topics are covered in 7th Grade Math: rational number operations, proportional relationships, analyzing & solving percent problems, equivalent expressions, solving with equations & inequalities, use of sampling to draw inferences about populations, probability, and use of geometry to solve problems.

- The following topics are covered in 8th Grade Math: real numbers, linear equations, functions, bivariate data, congruence & similarity, the Pythagorean Theorem, and surface area & volume.

### **Science:**

6th, 7th, and 8th grades have a three-year curricular rotation from Kesler Science:

- Year 1 – Life Science: Structure of Life, Body Systems, Interactions in an Ecosystem
- Year 2 – Earth Science: Space, Earth, Weather
- Year 3 – Physical Science: Force and Motion, Chemistry, Energy

### **Social Studies:**

5th/6th Grade:

- 5th and 6th grade are on a two-year rotation using the *World History: Voices and Perspectives* and *US History: Making a New Nation* (McGraw-Hill) curriculum.
- Year 1 examines US History from early Native American civilizations to the reconstruction following the Civil War with the purpose of developing an understanding of how different cultures influenced early American settlements.
- Year 2 examines the world history of the Near Ancient East through the Reformation and the Rise of Europe (3500BC - AD1600).
- Students frequently work in small groups to prepare presentations and reports.
- Note-taking and Internet research are emphasized.
- Presentation Fair in May rotates between State and Country reports

7th/8th Grade:

- 7th and 8th grade are also on a two-year rotation for Social Studies.
- In Year 1, utilizing *Exploring Geography and Global Issues* (McGraw-Hill), students encounter the five themes of geography as they pertain to the different regions of the world.
- The third trimester shifts in focus to Washington State History and Constitution, which satisfies a High School graduation requirement using *The Washington Journey* (Gibbs Smith Education).
- In Year 2, utilizing *United States History: Voices and Perspectives* (McGraw-Hill), students encounter the people, places, and events that shaped our young nation.
- Presentation Fair in May rotates between Civilization and American Historical Figure reports.

### **Spanish:**

- Spanish is taught 2 days a week in grades 6 to 8, utilizing both the *VAMOS* and *SOMOS 1* curriculum from The Comprehensible Classroom with a focus on language acquisition for communicative proficiency.
- Instructional methods used center around personalized questions and stories, both proven to be effective based on Second Language Acquisition research from the last four decades.
- The initial focus is more on the receptive skills (reading & listening) than on the productive skills (writing & speaking), but a minimum of Novice High proficiency (according to ACTFL's proficiency guidelines) is the goal for all students.

### **Enrichment:**

- Art - classes (twice-weekly) include instruction in a variety of media, both 2-D (drawing, painting, print-making, etc.) and 3-D (weaving, clay, papier-mâché, etc.)
- Physical Education - instruction twice-weekly includes:
  - Personal fitness goals and the importance of regular physical activity
  - Individual and team sport rules and participation
- Music - classes meet once a week with a focus on both singing and playing music. Performances are an important part of our music curriculum.

- Technology Integration
  - Our middle school is 1:1 with all students using a school-issued Chromebook daily in their learning.
  - Students keep up with assignments in Google Classroom and develop proficiency with Google Suite products such as Docs, Slides, and Gmail
  - Students practice in Typing Club (via EdClub) one period each week to become proficient in touch typing.
  - Students also develop proficiency in Canva in creating visual graphics across the curriculum.
  - Many students participate in Robotics to prepare for L.E.S.T. in Tacoma.

### Experiences:

- Weekly chapel with chapel buddies
- Host daily video announcements
- Piano or Voice lessons (by individual appointment)
- School assemblies
- Sports: Volleyball, Basketball, & Track
- Crochet Club
- International Festival, Art Fair, and Science Fair (alternate yearly)
- Passport Club
- Service projects

### Field trips include:

- Outdoor Education experience in September for grade 6
- L.E.S.T. (Lutheran Elementary School Tournament) – Thursday through Saturday of Presidents’ Day weekend
- Day trip to Mt. St. Helens, Pacific Science Center, or Seattle Mariners game (3-year rotation)
- Washington, D.C. (optional – offered once every 3–4 years)

### Sample Daily Schedule:

	8:30	Homeroom
1st	8:45	Reading
2nd	9:30	Science (MWF) / Spanish (TR)
	10:15	Break
3rd	10:25	Math
4th	11:10	Writing
	11:55	Study Hall
	12:15	Lunch & Recess
5th	1:05	Social Studies (4 days weekly)
6th	1:55	Theology (3 days weekly) / Tech Skills (F)
7th	2:45	Enrichment or Chapel (Wednesdays)