

Northshore Christian Academy



Experience Excellence



2011-2012
Middle School
Course Descriptions &
Co-curricular Activities

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MISSIONS STATEMENT

Northshore Christian Academy partners with parents to provide a superior Christian education developing spiritual, academic, and personal excellence in a Christ-centered environment.



Arts

‘It is good to praise the LORD and make music to Your name, O Most High...’ (Psalm 92:1 NIV)

“... He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship.” (Exodus 35:31-33 NIV)

The Performing Arts:

In our performing arts programs students develop their artistic abilities through hands-on instruction. Teachers are passionate about seeing students grow in confidence and artistic skills. We encourage students to use their talents to honor and praise the Lord. Students learn to distinguish between times of worship and performance. In our programs, students also develop social skills and make lasting friendships as they work cooperatively with one another. There is something for the beginner and the seasoned performer at NCA.

Intermediate Band (Grade 6)

Elective: 2 semesters

This intermediate band, bridges beginners to advanced band. Students will learn to play a variety of musical styles, while developing technical proficiency with their instruments. The band will perform in concerts, such as the *Winter Concert* and the *Best of Middle School*.

Advanced Band (Grades 7, 8)

Elective: 2 semesters

Students will learn proper playing techniques including posture, breathing, fingerings, and embouchure. Students will learn good rehearsal procedures including rehearsal conduct, following the conductor, courtesy, and being prepared for rehearsals. They will study musical concepts and values including ensemble playing, steady beat, playing in tune, accurate articulation and note reading, and expressive musical phrasing. They will also know how to practice individually. Students will explore and become aware of historical and stylistic musical concepts as we play a variety of music. Based on individual skill level, students will either be placed in Beginning Band, Intermediate Band or Advanced Band. The advanced band will perform in the *Winter Concert* and the *Best of Middle School*.

Beginning Strings (Grades 6-8)

Elective: 1 or 2 semesters

This is an introductory to strings course. Students will learn playing techniques appropriate to their instrument. They will focus on music reading and ear training. They will study concepts such as steady beat, dynamics, meter, key signature, phrasing, articulation, and intonation. Learning proper instrument care is included. Students will also learn rehearsal and performance procedures. All orchestra members will have the opportunity to perform on special occasions.

Middle School Orchestra (Grades 6-8)

Elective: 1 or 2 semesters

Middle School Orchestra is a class that meets three times per week where students learn to play and/or improve their violin, viola and cello playing skills. Students learn to play simple string orchestra arrangements and then perform them at several points throughout the school year. Students work on music reading skills, instrument technique, musicality, rehearsal etiquette and procedure, musical vocabulary, rhythm, music theory and performance.

Students are encouraged to use music as a form of communication in expressing their thoughts and feelings. Students are encouraged that music can be a powerful tool to communicate with God and about God. They are encouraged to develop their skills in order to do that more effectively and to bring honor and glory to God by doing it to the best of their abilities.

Beginning Choir (Grade 6)

Elective: 2 semesters

6th Grade Choir is a year-long class meeting three times per week where we explore all aspects of vocal music through listening, singing, reading and performing. In 6th Grade Choir we give students the opportunity to learn a variety of styles and genre of choral music in two and three parts. Students learn to read and recognize rhythms and notes and to follow a choral music score. Students do various exercises to develop their range, tone quality, dynamics, diction and subtleties of style.

Advanced Choir (Grades 7, 8)

Elective: 2 semesters

Advanced Choir is a yearlong class meeting two times per week for 45 minutes where we explore all aspects of vocal music through listening, singing, reading and performing. In 7 Advanced Choir we give students the opportunity to learn a variety of styles and genre of choral music in two and three parts. Students learn to read and recognize rhythms and notes and to follow a choral music score. Students do various exercises to develop their range, tone quality, dynamics, diction and subtleties of style.

Students are encouraged to use music as a form of communication in expressing their thoughts and feelings. Students are encouraged that music can be a powerful tool to communicate with God and about God. They are encouraged to develop their skills in order to do that more effectively and to bring honor and glory to God by doing it to the best of their abilities. Enrollment in the course is with permission by the director, subsequent to an audition.

Praise Team (Grades 6- 8)

Elective: 1 or 2 semesters

Students in this class will develop their God given musical abilities as they take an active role in leading worship during chapel. This course involves hands-on learning. Students select a praise team instrument and learn basic techniques for performing in the community using the music skills they have learned in class. Some music theory and music appreciation is included. A primary focus is developing a heart for worship that honors the Lord, above performing before people.

Drama (Grades 6- 8)

Elective: 1 or 2 semesters

This is a movement-oriented drama class. Students will explore creative ways for self-expression and the use of drama to minister to others. Students will learn philosophy, history, stage basics, and various acting techniques that enable them to perform well in front of an audience. Each year drama students have the opportunity to perform for the Best of Middle School, chapels, and more. Drama students, as well as students not in drama class, may audition for the annual middle school musical.

Graphic Arts

Our graphic arts program inspires students to see and appreciate God's design and beauty in all creation. Each class focuses on the elements and principles of design (color, line, pattern, shape, texture, and value). Different artists, styles and techniques are introduced and discussed. Students create a variety of original works using multiple mediums.

Art (Grade 6)

Required: 1 quarter

Artists will express themselves with Sharpie markers, pencils, watercolors, oil pastels, watercolor pencils, and cut paper, using new and traditional art techniques. They'll learn how to balance color, to create a center-of-interest, to draw upside-down and in 3-D, make different kinds of watercolor washes, use and mix colors to get special effects, utilize texture and repetition and value, and cut positive negative images. They'll begin to discover the treasures inside of them, according to the Bible, and be challenged to polish their work through self-evaluation and goal setting.

Art (Grades 7 - 8)

Elective: 1 or 2 semesters

Artists will express themselves with Sharpie markers, pencils, watercolors, oil and soft pastels, watercolor pencils, and collage, using new and traditional art techniques. They'll learn how to balance color, to create a center-of-interest, to draw upside-down and in 3-D, make different kinds of watercolor washes, use and mix colors to get special effects, utilize texture and repetition and value. Building on the principles and techniques practiced in 6th grade art, they'll imitate famous artists after studying their styles. Artists will sample abstract art, impressionism, and realism and explore ways to influence their culture. Best of all, they'll begin to discover more of the treasures inside of them, according to the Bible, and be challenged to polish their work through self/peer-evaluation and goal setting.



Bible

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16 NIV)

The primary goal of our Bible courses is to make the Word of God more meaningful to the lives of our middle school students. We desire our young people to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. We endeavor to develop that relationship by equipping students with knowledge and application of the Word of God. Going beyond factual knowledge of the Scriptures, we hope to see wisdom and understanding imparted into every student's life with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Character development, prayer, Bible memory work, and practical lessons, enable students to grow in faith and equip them to make good decisions.

Winning the Race (Grade 6)**Required: 2 semesters**

This is a thematic study of the Word of God, focusing sixth grade students on principles that specifically apply to their lives. Studies are drawn from both Old and New Testament characters and the life of Jesus Christ. In order to win the race of life, students discover that a personal relationship with the Lord is foundational. From there, students build on that foundation by studying and applying the Bible for themselves.

Wise Up (Grade 7)**Required: 2 semesters**

This course focuses on the wisdom literature in the book of Proverbs. Many applications are made to other parts of Scripture, which help students develop skills for Bible reading and study. Topics include resolving conflicts, home life, relating to friends, showing responsibility, the difference between being wise and being foolish, and other relevant applications found in the book of Proverbs in particular. Knowing Christ is the most vital part of any Christian's life, so an emphasis on knowing Him personally is at the core of this class. Students will also discover what it means to have a Biblical worldview that is applied to all areas of life.

Route 66 (Grade 8)**Required: 2 semesters**

This survey course, of all 66 books of the Bible, is designed to assist the student in gaining a deeper appreciation for the Word of God. Eighth grade students will be led to see the gospel framework from Genesis through Revelation. This course provides an understanding of key themes in each book of the Bible. Students will be able to locate, study, and apply biblical truth more readily into their lives.

**Business and Career Education**

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...”
Colossians 3:23 NIV)

Business Education (Grades 7 – 8)**Elective: 1 semester**

In this course, students are inspired to become effective Christian business leaders in our community. Students will learn the skills necessary for creating successful business plans. They will gain understanding of the following key business concepts: establishing goals, understanding a target market, budgeting, obtaining and managing inventory, marketing products, merchandising product, and proper records maintenance. Students will learn the importance of teamwork and good communication skills. They will also understand the importance of business integrity.

Career Exploration (Grades 7 – 8)*Elective: 1 semester**

In this course, students will be exposed to a variety of career options. They assess their own skill proficiency, and consider their interests, to be matched with specific careers. Guest speakers and a research paper exploring a favorite career will be a part of the coursework.

() This course is offered on varied school years.*



Foreign Language

“Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning.” (1 Corinthians 14:10 NIV)

With an increasingly globalized society and a culturally diverse nation, knowing a foreign language is becoming essential. Our middle school foreign language program encourages students to see the larger world around them with Biblical worldview and a heart for missions. The Bible says, *“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations...”* Matthew 28:19. Our foreign language students are given the opportunity, every other year, to participate in a mission’s trip where they can apply their language skills in a real-life setting, while also ministering to the needs of others in a foreign country. In addition to this, students who study foreign language in middle school will have a good foundation for future foreign language study in high school.

All Spanish classes at Northshore are taught with a method called TPRStorytelling which uses four consecutive steps of language acquisition: hearing, speaking, reading and writing. Students hear and respond to new vocabulary, participate in building stories with that vocabulary and respond to questions with answers and discussion. They are soon able to add their own ideas in Spanish. Songs, games, and skits are all part of the system that has fluency in Spanish as its aim.

Basic Spanish (Grade 6, exploratory track)

Required: 1 quarter

This course introduces students to common phrases and idioms found in basic conversational Spanish. The objective is to familiarize students with everyday expressions and to recognize the influence the Spanish language has on our culture.

Beginning Spanish (Grade 6-8)

Elective: 1 semester

During two, 45 minute classes per week, using the curriculum *Cuéntame* by TPRS publishing. Students learn about missionaries to Spanish speaking nations. They practice the 10 important questions and answers for making Spanish speaking friends. Learn worship songs and Bible verses. They also learn how to bargain in a market. They read stories built around new and known vocabulary and translate the new story. New vocabulary includes nouns and verbs about food.

Advanced Spanish – Section A (Grade 7 - 8)

Elective: 2 semesters

Advanced Spanish is a continuing yearlong course that is equivalent to the first year of high school Spanish. Students who successfully complete both years of study petition high schools for a waiver of Spanish I. Students learn grammar including present tense regular and irregular verb conjugations, conjugated verb plus infinitive, how to use *gustar*, *ser/estar*, expressions, as well as additional vocabulary. The curriculum used is *Cuéntame Más*, TPRStorytelling and a novel *Pobre Ana* and the novel *Patricia va a California*.



History / Social Studies

*“We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.”
(Psalm 78:4 NIV)*

Our middle school history and social studies program provides students with an overview and understanding of major historical world and national events. Students see the hand of God throughout the course of history and in the creation of geographical features. Our students are challenged with higher level thinking: analyzing, evaluating and synthesizing historical facts and information, and history’s legacy today.

U.S. History (Grade 6)

Required: 2 semesters

This is a comprehensive survey of the United States History, intended to give the student a solid foundation of knowledge about the heritage of this country. For the young student who is just discovering his/her own abilities and responsibilities in life, there may be no more valuable study than the lives of others in the light of Scripture. In this course are many examples of people who either followed God’s leading or failed to do so. From these examples the student will see the truth of God in action and develop values and principles for living.

World History (Grade 7)

Required: 2 semesters

This is a survey of world history from ancient civilizations to the 21st century. Students explore river valley civilizations, like the Mesopotamians and the mighty Egyptians; the development of new ideas and empires, like the Roman Empire; transitions in world history, such as the Reformation and the Renaissance; and the dawn of the modern world. Through reading, research, engaging discussions, and various creative hands-on projects students master historical facts and see history from a Christian worldview

World Geography (Grade 8)

Required: 1 semester

In this course students will explore issues related to the physical, political, economic, and cultural aspects of the earth and its people. In preparation to become involved, Christian citizens, this World Geography course will help students build a global perspective and understand the connection between global and local events, with a Biblical point of view.

Washington State History (Grade 8)

Required: 1 semester

This course is designed to fulfill the Washington State History requirement for high school graduation. It is equivalent to a one semester (75 hours) course of instruction in state geography, Native Americans of Washington State, exploration, the fur trade and mission eras, territorial history and on through statehood and 20th century state history. Students will study and create maps and complete various learning activities, reports, and tests. Washington State history is a 9th grade level course.



Language Arts

“... God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning...”
(Daniel 1:17)

The middle school language arts department is designed to inspire life-long readers, and to develop confident communicators. We seek to provide students with an appreciation of literature in multiple genres. In addition to this, we desire that our students think critically with strong analytical skills from a Biblical worldview. Our students experiment with a variety of written forms, developing their own voice and style. We endeavor to equip students with clear writing skills and the ability to orally express themselves in an articulate manner.

English 6

Required: 2 semesters

Sixth grade English builds upon the skills developed during fifth grade. In *Writer's Workshop* students create individual writing portfolios which include a variety of writing styles. Students learn to bring a writing topic into focus, collect and analyze research information, organize facts, and become overall more effective writers. Formal instruction is given to grammar and vocabulary development. In regard to reading, over the course of the year, students will read a variety of novels in addition to short stories, poetry, articles, and myths. Novels the students read together include: The Bronze Bow and Bull Run. Students have the opportunity to select from a variety of other novels for Literature Circles. Literature circles are used to provide opportunity for greater discussion and critical thinking of complex literature selections

English 7

Required: 2 semesters

The seventh grade English program challenges students to become life-long readers, as well as effective and confident communicators, verbally and in writing. The writing process in conjunction with the *Six-Trait* writing model equips students to clearly express themselves in written communication. Students have plenty of informal writing practice to hone the skills of drafting, revising, and editing. Short essays, research papers, journal entries, poetry, book reports, and personal narratives are some writing styles seventh graders will do. Formal instruction is given to grammar and vocabulary development. Many of the writing topics are tied to themes found in their literature reading. The seventh grade reading program is designed to help students identify and critically analyze various themes and elements in literature. They will read a variety of literature, from novels to short stories, poetry, essays, dramas, folktales and more. One of the novels the students read together is Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. Independent reading is also encouraged using the Accelerated Reader program. Students read both fiction and non-fiction selections within their optimal reading range. They also develop their public speaking skills through the speech meet, oral reports, and small and whole group discussions.

English 8

Required: 2 semesters

Building upon previous years, the eighth grade English course focuses on both literature and composition. Continuing with the use of the *Six-Trait* writing model, students create multiple forms of original writings. Much of their writing is in conjunction with the literature being read and analyzed. Vocabulary development and grammar skills are taught directly, as well as indirectly through personal compositions. Some of the writing assignments include essays, reports, literature responses, creative stories, narratives, and poetry. A variety of literary genres, fiction and non-fiction, are explored in eighth grade. Selections range from essays, poetry, short stories, dramas, myths, and more. Thoughtful interpretive discussions about literature, along with critical analysis are emphasized. Together students read The Diary of Anne Frank and A Light In the Forest. Students are also given strategies that build public speaking confidence. By participating in the speech meet, class debates, and oral presentations students learn to express themselves orally with poise and clarity.

*** Speech and Debate (Grade 7 -8)**

Elective: 1 semester

Through various confidence building strategies and fun activities, students will hone their communication skills through speech and debate. In this course, students will work on debate skills, such as anticipating opposing point of views and presenting arguments in a mature fashion. They will also learn to write engaging speeches and perform in front of their classmates without fear. The class climate is safe and supportive, where students learn to encourage and respect one another.

(*) *This course is offered on varied school years.*



Student Leadership

“The greatest among you will be your servant.” (Matthew 23:11)

Everyone has been given special gifts from the Lord. Leadership is one of His gifts according to Romans 12:8. For those called to leadership, it is essential to have strong Biblical principles to facilitate leading others. Our leadership class is designed to build and equip student leaders who will make a difference in their generation.

***Leadership (Grades 6 – 8)**

Elective: 1 semester

In this course students will study *Secrets of World Changers: How to Achieve Lasting Influence as a Leader*. This is a six part video series by Jeffrey L. Myers, PhD. Dr. Jeff Myers is the founder and president of The Myers Institute, an organization dedicated to equipping Christians to disciple, mentor, and teach growing leaders to develop their influence for God. This series presents six keys that will prepare students to make a constructive impact in the world today. The six keys are as follows:

- How to expand your influence by living out servant leadership
- Practical steps you can take to create a strategic vision for your life
- Embracing God-sized truths that will inspire confidence in your life’s purpose
- Strategies to overcome stress and achieve equilibrium in everyday circumstances
- Methods for organizing your life to amplify your personal influence

- Refreshing ways to conquer the challenges you'll face as a world-changer
- (*) *This course is offered on varied school years.*



Mathematics

“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20 NIV)

Our philosophy of education for middle school math is built upon the premise that God created a physical world of orderly relationships and patterns as He set the world in motion. While students are learning mathematics, they will understand the concept of absolute truth, and their minds will be strengthened through thinking and reasoning skills. Also, our middle school students will learn to go from the concrete to the abstract, from the particular to the general, from content to concept. They will also learn to process facts as part of the truth and order that God has built into reality. In our math courses teachers provide this Biblical worldview while using Saxon math. Each grade level builds upon the previous learning. Mathematical concepts are distributed throughout the year for better retention and math mastery. Students will absorb new concepts and skills in small increments with plenty of practice. They will become proficient in problem solving techniques preparing them for the next level of mathematics.

Students are placed in courses based upon teacher recommendations, placement exams, SAT scores, current achievement and motivation, and mastery of prerequisite concepts.

Saxon Math Course I (Grade 6)

Required: 2 semesters

In this course students review and reinforce basic skills of operation, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, exponentiation, and roots. This course is designed to enable students to better understand mathematics involving concepts of decimals, fractions, formulas, equations, measurement, ratios, percents, integers, and basic algebraic and geometric ideas.

Saxon Math Course II (Grade 6, 7)

Required: 2 semesters

This is a Pre-algebra mathematics course helping students ease the transition from arithmetic to Algebra. Students review and strengthen foundational mathematical skills while adding new concepts. Some of the topics covered in this course include: problem solving techniques for equations, decimals, fractions, percents, inequalities, probability theory, statistics (mean, median, & mode), prime factorization, exponents, scientific notation, roots, the Pythagorean Theorem, properties (commutative, distributive, etc.) and other advanced concepts in preparation for Algebra I.

Saxon Math Course III (Grades 7, 8)

Required: 2 semesters

This is a standard first year Algebra course building upon Saxon Math Course II. Students become more proficient in problem solving techniques and reasoning skills. Students review and hone concepts taught in course II. Some additional topics, covered in Saxon Course III, include the following: operations of positive and negative real numbers; classification of real numbers; absolute value; algebraic ratios

and proportions; radicals, numerical and algebraic; solving radical equations, coordinate graphing (linear and non-linear); statistics; functions; algebraic expressions and equations (linear, quadratic, and rational); Quadratic Formula, Midpoint Formula, and many other advanced concepts.

Saxon Algebra I (Grade 8)

Required: 2 semesters

Algebra 1 is a high school-equivalent, first-year algebra course. It is an essential introduction to higher math courses. This text presents Saxon's spiraled strand approach to algebraic concepts and skills such as solving equations, working with linear and quadratic functions, solving systems, inequalities, polynomials, rational and irrational expressions, absolute value expressions, and probabilities. As a result of this course the student will become adept at working with these forms of mathematical expressions by reading and writing algebraic equations, formulas, and solutions. Text: Saxon Algebra 1, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Supplemental Publishers, 2009

Students review and hone concepts taught in previous mathematics courses while working toward mastery of algebraic equations. Eighth grade students may take Algebra I for high school credit, but it is recommended that they have excellent mastery and keep high grades (B or better) before using this course to replace 9th grade Algebra.

Students placed in Algebra must meet the following criteria:

- Pass entrance exam (80% or higher)
- Maintain 80 % average or above
- Pass mastery tests every 6 weeks
- Students will be placed in Course III if they do not meet and maintain the standards for Algebra I.

Students in this Algebra course must demonstrate high achievement and motivation, mastery of basic concepts, and strong aptitude for problem solving. There is an expectation of challenging independent work. Students are placed in this course based on teacher recommendation, SAT scores, an entrance exam and current achievement.



Physical Education

'For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.' (1 Timothy 4:8 NIV)

Teamwork, good sportsmanship, effort, and athletic skills are emphasized in our middle school physical education courses. Students participate in a variety of athletic activities to facilitate the development of motor skills, coordination, and physical fitness. Character development is an integral part of our program as well. Students are encouraged to display Christ-like attitudes, fairness, honesty, respect, and kindness to others. While students have different athletic abilities, everyone is expected to do their personal best.

Middle School PE (Grades 6-8)

Required: 2 semesters

Boys and girls meet twice a week in separate PE classes, per their grade level, where they will feel more comfortable. Each class emphasizes age-appropriate physical development and fitness, competence in useful physical skills, and enjoyment of recreation. A unique activity to middle school PE is *Circuit Training* which focuses on a strength and speed aspect of specific muscle groups and rotates each week. Some sports, such as soccer, flag-football, basketball, pickle ball, and volleyball are taught, making PE fun and challenging. Students also have the opportunity to learn some Tae-Kwon-Do and self-defense strategies. Students work on flexibility, muscular strength, endurance, and cardiovascular health. Classes are structured so that students participate in physical education twice per week.



Science

“For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:16)

Students will explore God’s creation of the universe, life, technology, and the interaction of natural systems. Using the scientific method, with hands-on experiments, students will deepen their understanding and application of science.

General Science (Grade 6)

Required: 2 semesters

Students explore the diversity and intricacy of God’s creation in the area of physical science. Students will be expected to critically analyze scientific concepts using a Biblical worldview. Emphasis will be on the scientific process and God’s sovereign creation. Students will be challenged intellectually as they ask questions, gather research, design procedures to test their hypotheses, determine the type and amount of data to collect, and formulate a response that communicates and justifies the outcome. Students study from the Prentice Hall Science Explorer: Electricity and Magnetism text.

Chemistry and Earth Science (Grade 7)

Required: 2 semesters

Geology is a one quarter course taught in the seventh grade. It is usually taught in the first quarter of the year. The course begins with an introduction to Geology and God's creation of the Universe. Students will be taught God's creation as outlined in Genesis, the Big Bang Theory and other alternative theories. While it is a fundamental belief of this church and school that the Bible presents the absolute truth, students should be exposed to theories taught in many public high schools and universities. The introduction concludes with a review of famous scientists throughout history, many of whom were Christian.

Students next study minerals, ores, and the three types of rocks (sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic). Students will learn the characteristics of common specimens and will be able to identify them. The course concludes with a study of plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes and safety precautions regarding earthquakes. The students will

participate in a variety of labs, investigations, and will be encouraged to visit a local gem and mineral show. The students will also develop a power point presentation on an aspect of Geology or Oceanography. Geology should provide the students an appreciation for the enormity and beauty of God's creation

Chemistry is taught as a one quarter course in the seventh grade. It is usually taught in the second quarter of the year. The course provides the students with an introduction to matter, with an emphasis on the differences between solids, liquids, and gases. The students also study gas behavior, including Boyle's Law and Charles' Law. The students learn about the Periodic Table and how it is used to predict the behavior of various elements. The structure of atoms is presented with an emphasis on the valance electrons and how they combine to form molecules. Students participate in Chemistry Labs and Investigations including using molecular models to construct molecules. Chemistry should provide the students an appreciation for the detail and organization of God's creation.

Meteorology is a one quarter course taught in the seventh grade. It is usually taught in the third quarter of the year. The students study the characteristics of our atmosphere including the layers of the atmosphere. There is an emphasis on environmental responsibility for the quality of our atmosphere. The students study weather, including weather predicting, masses, fronts, precipitation, severe storms and safety from those storms. There is special attention paid to the weather in Northwest Washington and how it is influenced by the mountains and the ocean. The course concludes with a review of climates. The students participate in labs, investigations, weather mapping activities, and develop a power point presentation on an aspect of meteorology. Meteorology should provide the students an appreciation for the life cycles, diversity and beauty of God's creation.

Astronomy is taught as a one quarter course in the seventh grade. It is usually taught in the fourth quarter of the year. Students study the history of astronomy, the development of the telescope and the mapping of the stars. There is an emphasis on stars and their life cycle, galaxies, and planets in our solar system. Students will participate in labs and investigations, including observing terrestrial and celestial objects using the telescope. Astronomy should provide the students an appreciation for the enormity and beauty of God's creation.

Life Science (Grade 8)

Required: 2 semesters

In this content course, students learn about life science facts, systems and vocabulary. Participants will observe, draw, dissect, apply critical thinking skills and use the scientific method. Life Science topics include taxonomy (classification), cellular biology, molecular biology, a special unit on chemistry, the tissues and structures of plants and animals, cellular respiration and photosynthesis, ecology, and the systems of the human body. The objectives of this course are mastery of basic life science facts along with the development of interest in and enjoyment of the amazing living things our Creator has designed.



Student Aide

“... Serve one another in love.”(Galatians 5:13b NIV)

Responsible students who enjoy working with younger students and /or assisting teachers may choose to be a student aide. Student aides work independently on various projects to assist teachers or other staff members. There is limited availability for student aides. Student aides develop organizational skills, work ethic, and initiative.

Student Aide (Grades 7 – 8)

Elective: 1 or 2 semesters

Students will be assigned to assist a teacher, librarian, or office staff member. Student duties will vary. Student aides must demonstrate responsibility and the ability to work independently.



Study Helps

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15 KJV)

Study Helps are elective classes that provide students a quiet supervised place to study, work on homework, and receive additional academic support. Some students may be required to take a study helps course based on their academic needs.

Study Hall is especially helpful for students who are involved in sports, performing arts, or other extra-curricular activities. Some students may be required to take a study helps course based on their academic needs.

Math Lab (Grades 6-8)

Elective/Required (depending on the need of the student):

1, 2 semesters

This class is offered to supplement and support a student’s regular math course.

Participants are encouraged to bring specific problems and concepts for which they need help and clarification. They are allowed to work on their math assignments and correct work from cumulative tests. The teacher for Math Lab will consult with the regular English teachers, review concepts recently presented in the regular class and assist students to demonstrate those concepts. The instructor will also analyze basic skill weaknesses on the part the students and give them opportunities to strengthen deficiencies. This is not a study hall, but a supervised, directed, course aimed at mastery of grade-level material and skill acquisition.

Reading Lab (Grades 6-8)

Elective/Required (depending on the needs of the student):

1, 2 semesters

Reading Lab seeks to provide extra time and opportunity for student success in the grade-level English class. Students will build vocabulary, learn to predict, analyze, summarize, and review reading material. Using core curriculum texts, a variety of interesting books, short stories, and articles at their ability levels, students will practice specific reading skills and strategies. The teacher will consult with the regular English teacher, review

concepts recently presented in the regular class and assist students demonstrate those concepts. The instructor will also analyze basic skill weaknesses on the part the students and give them opportunities to strengthen deficiencies. This is not a study hall, but a supervised, directed, course aimed at mastery of grade level material and skill acquisition.

Homework Club (Grade 6)

Wednesdays during lunch, 2 semesters

While not a regular class, per se, Homework Club meets Wednesday's at lunchtime in the classrooms of the three core subject teachers. Additional support in all of the core subjects is available or students can use the time as a quiet venue to eat lunch and get ahead on homework. This added service on the part of our 6th grade staff members is available at no extra charge to our families.

Study Hall (Grades 6, 7, 8)

Elective: 1 or 2 Semesters

This is a supervised study time for students to work on homework, read, or prepare for tests or projects. Students are expected to come prepared with all the materials necessary to work or read.



Technology

“For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6 NIV)

With an ever changing world driven by continual technological advancements equipping our students with a firm foundation in technology education is essential. Our students are taught proper typing techniques, with lots of practice resulting in sharpened accuracy and speed. We strive to provide our middle school students with current software applications relevant to their lives. Most importantly we provide an understanding of ethical issues surrounding the use of technology at school and elsewhere. We ensure our students are grounded with a Bible-based, Christian perspective.

Basic Computer Skills (Grade 6, exploratory track)

Required: 1 quarter

The focus of computers in sixth grade is to touch on computer ethics from a Christian perspective and to develop problem solving techniques. Typing skills will be practiced throughout the semester. This course covers a variety of software applications and introduces students to Microsoft Office 2007 (Word 2007, PowerPoint 2007, and Publisher 2007, Excel 2007, and OneNote 2007). Students will use these software applications for special assignments in their core subjects such as English, history, and science.

***Communication Technology (Grade 7 – 8)**

Elective: 1 semester

This class is designed to: 1. Prepare for the entry level amateur radio license. 2. Cover topics in commercial broadcasting such as format types. 3. Introduce content creation and production for audio and video. It is an applied science class in which the participants will use scientific processes, laboratory and critical thinking skills as well as research and writing skills.

We will cover a wide range of topics including: electronics fundamentals: insulators, conductors, semiconductors; measurement units: voltage, Ohm's Law; resistance, inductance, decibels; safety; emergency communication; meters and measuring; power supplies, batteries; antennas; operating procedures; propagation, satellite communications; Morse code, secret codes; regulatory matters; commercial broadcasting and internet content creation and distribution; content creation for Radio Northshore; audio and video editing software; audio and video production techniques.

***Digital Video Editing**

Elective: 1 or 2 semesters

This course will explore the concepts and procedures of digital video, editing, and video equipment using Adobe Premiere Elements. *Limited class size.*

() This course is offered on varied school years.*

Game Design (Grades 7 – 8)

Elective: 1 semester

This challenging class is designed for students who have some initial interest in game programming. They will learn to use the program *GameMaker* to design and program games. Students will gain an understanding of artificial intelligence and game logic, digital sound effects and gif animation. Student will work with variables and codes such as “if-then”, “for-while”, and “do” loops. As a final project, students will design and build a working video game

***Newspaper (Grades 7 – 8)**

Elective: 1 semester

Students will understand the various elements of publication, including: editing, writing, and layout. Students will gain knowledge of the Microsoft Publisher program and will publish a middle school newspaper highlighting events and stories relevant to our school community.

() This course is offered on varied school years.*

Photoshop (Grade 6-8)

Elective: 1 semester

This computer course allows seventh and eighth grade students to explore their creativity with Photoshop Elements. Students will discover how professionals create images encountered every day in our culture, such as on-line and in advertisements. They will have the opportunity to develop their own techniques for editing pictures and creating graphics using Photoshop Elements. This course also covers a variety of software applications and introduces students to using Photoshop with other Microsoft Office applications. Students will have opportunity to use their Microsoft Office knowledge and graphic design skills for special assignments in other core subjects.

Introduction to Robotics (Grade 6, exploratory track)

Required: 1 quarter

An entry level STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) class aimed at inspiring young people to explore the world of robotic technology. Through viewing instructional video and manipulating components from the *Mindstorms* approach to robotics, students will discover the fun and challenge of the world of robots and be introduced to industrial applications.

Beginning Robotics (Grades 7, 8)**Elective: 2 semesters**

An entry level STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) class aimed at inspiring young people to explore the world of robotic technology. Through viewing instructional video and manipulating components from the *Mindstorms* approach to robotics, students will discover the fun and challenge of the world of robots and be introduced to industrial applications. Includes and adds to material addressed in Introduction to Robotics.

Stage Sound and Lighting (Grades 7 - 8)*Elective: 1 semester**

This is a hands-on course where students learn the intricate details of operating a sound board. They will be trained to prepare a stage and run the sound and lighting system for performances. Each week they will assist in preparing the stage and operating the sound and lighting system for middle school chapels. Students will be required to assist at one or more live school performances. *Limited class size.*

(*) *This course is offered on varied school years.*

Webpage and Design (Grades 7 - 8)**Elective: 1 semester**

Web Design provides students with the skills necessary to plan and create web sites using Expression Design and Web. These skills include creating both static and animated graphics, navigation systems, managing files, HTML basics, data retrieval, and presentation techniques. This course will also introduce students to Flash 10 in the creation of animations for the web. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on both information and graphic design, stressing four basic design principles: alignment, proximity, repetition, & contrast.

Yearbook Design (Grades 7 - 8)*Elective: 2 semesters**

Students will learn about creative yearbook design. They will discover techniques of page layout, such as use of white space, size of text, color schemes, ethics with subject matter, and more. Participants will help create the actual school yearbook. *Limited class size.*

(*) *This course is offered on varied school years.*

Co-curricular Activities



Community Service

Each quarter, our middle school students dedicate five or more hours of volunteer service to the community. These service hours are credited toward their Bible grade. The type of service varies by individual student and is mostly accomplished outside of school time. Some service ideas include the following: volunteering at a nursing home, the mission, or serving at a church soup kitchen, church nursery or children's church; assisting the elderly with yard work or household chores; volunteering at a veterinary clinic to clean pet cages; sort clothing at World Vision; pick up trash at a public park; and so forth.



Clubs

A wide variety of clubs are offered after school each quarter. Students sign up in advance and pay a small supply fee to participate. Some previous clubs have included the following: chess club, scrabble club, German club, basketball skills clinic, art, juggling, Russian egg decorating, flag football, drama, and much more!



Mission Trip

Every other year our middle school students have the opportunity to participate in a mission's trip. This usually occurs over spring break. Previous trips have been to Costa Rica and Mexico. We support established ministries by volunteering our time and resources to those who will continue the ministry work when we're gone. Students may minister by leading soccer clinics, teaching vacation Bible school, volunteering at an orphanage, feeding homeless families, working on building projects, performing evangelistic skits, and much more. We go with the primary purpose of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. As our students go seeking to change lives for the gospel of Christ, it never fails that they are the ones whose lives are changed.



Retreat

Each fall at the start of school, our entire middle school goes on a special overnight retreat. This time away provides a unique opportunity for our students to build friendships, make new ones, and to know their teachers outside of the classroom setting. Laying a good foundation for the start of school, our middle school students are challenged and inspired to seek the Lord, to know His will personally as well as for our middle school. We have special guest speakers and times of praise & worship at our retreat. We are passionate about sharing Jesus with our students and seeing them walk in kindness and brotherly love for one another. We are also serious about fun! We have a blast with the numerous games and outdoor activities, such as horseback riding, zip-lines, high ropes course, swimming, hiking, and more.



Sports

Here at Northshore Christian Academy we offer co-ed soccer and girls' volleyball in the fall, boys' and girls' basketball in the winter and co-ed track in the spring. Our teams participate in an interscholastic Christian sports league. The primary purpose for our sports is for students to have fun and learn skills. We are competitive, but more importantly committed to building godly character and good sportsmanship in the lives of our team players. Each year, we have novice and seasoned players, and our coaches are committed to reaching each athlete at their current level, helping them to personally improve while also contributing to the team. When a large number of students sign up for a sport a second team may be warranted and will be determined by the coaches and athletic director, in conjunction with our sporting league. Team players in each sport make new friends, have fun, learn new skills and glorify God with their attitude, sportsmanship, and talents.



Student Council

We have a student council committee of two sixth, two seventh and three eighth grade leaders. Each spring current fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students have the opportunity to run for student council and be elected by their peers. Student council leaders must be in all around good standing with academics and behavior. Our student council members learn to lead by serving others. They commit to meet once a week during their lunch time with a faculty supervisor. Some past activities have included: planning group games for the retreat; planning the middle school Christmas party; sponsoring food drives; addressing student concerns; selling valentines for a fundraiser; "MC-ing" the talent show; leading prayer at chapels; sponsoring a "Spring Social" and more.



Washington D.C. Trip

Every other year our middle school students have the awesome opportunity to go to Washington DC! In the spring, we take a week-long tour of our nation's capitol, learning all about the rich Christian heritage on which our country is founded. This is a chock-full, fast-paced trip. We visit all the memorials, such as the Korean War, Vietnam War, WWII War Memorials; Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, and the Washington Monument. We tour the Smithsonian Museums and see the Ford's Theatre where President Lincoln was assassinated, as well as the Peterson House where he was treated prior to passing. We tour Williamsburg, Mount Vernon, and Jamestown. We also visit Arlington National Cemetery where the Tombs of the Unknown soldiers dwell. Each year we go, we seek to tour the White House and the Capitol building too. This is an amazing experience that creates life-long memories for our middle school students, as well as a deeper appreciation for the Christian heritage and sacrifices of our nation's forefathers.