

**NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN
*MIDDLE SCHOOL***



COURSE OFFERINGS & DESCRIPTION GUIDE
NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
16401 N. 43RD Avenue

**Phoenix, AZ 85053
602-978-5134**

Dear Middle School Family,

I want to be the first to welcome you to NCS Middle School which is comprised of grades 6th through 8th. Middle School is part of the NCS Secondary program with five core classes required and many elective choices designed with the interests of middle school students in mind. Some electives are yearlong and some are semester based. This information is included in the course description section of this document. The Middle School staff is ready to help welcome your child, so if there is anything that I can do to help in your child's educational and/or spiritual endeavors, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Samantha Maszton
Middle School Principal

Helpful Extensions

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Middles School Core Classes and Electives

When a child enters middle school, he or she will have five core classes and the option of electives. There is a total of seven sections plus lunch and break within their day. Beyond the core classes, there are two sections to fill with electives. Please note: each elective states specifically if it is a semester long or yearlong course. This is important because if the student chooses all semester electives then he or she will need to make four choices to fill up the elective slots for the year.

6th grade

Core Classes

Bible Language Arts Math Science Social Studies

7th grade

Core Classes

Bible Language Arts Math Science Social Studies

8th grade

Core Classes

Bible Language Arts Math Science Social Studies

Elective Offerings

Art
Band
Choir (Boys, Girls and Advanced)
Drama
Introduction to French
Photography
Physical Education
Spanish (I, II and III)
Student Council
Technology Exploration (I, II and III)
Worship Arts
Yearbook

ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS

BIBLE DEPARTMENT -

Bible 6

Grade: 6th

Textbook Title: Building on the Rock: A World of Worldviews: Summit Ministries Curriculum

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: Students in 6th grade Bible will be given an introduction to Biblical and unbiblical beliefs about Truth, God, people, the universe and values. This is considered a bible survey of a Christian worldview for sixth grade students. The focus of the curriculum is on application of the content into the life of the student.

Bible 7

Grade: 7th

Textbook Title: English Standard Version Bible

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: This course will be covering all 66 books of the Bible in a brief introduction method. Students will be systematically covering questions related to the study of God consisting of basic theology. In addition, students will be covering "Godly dating standards".

Bible 8

Grade: 8th

Textbook Title: English Standard Version Bible

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: This course focuses on hermeneutics, the basic principles of how to study the Bible. The students will learn to properly observe, interpret, and apply the Word of God. The students will then incorporate these principles in the wisdom literature of the Old Testament, focusing on: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes.

LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT -

Language Arts 6

Grade: 6th

Textbook Title: Pearson My Perspectives, Write From the Beginning and Beyond, and independent Novel Studies

Websites: No Red Ink, Commonlit, Readworks, Noredink.com

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: This year long core course is designed to help prepare students to be able to effectively communicate both orally and through the written word. Students will be required to implement the Six Traits of Writing and throughout the course will complete a few personal narratives, a comparison and contrast essay, a creative writing story, and an expository piece. Instruction of grammar skills happens during the grammar bell work and in the context of writing. Students will focus on the proper use of the parts of speech, types of sentences, and punctuation. The reading aspect of this course is designed to help students improve reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills through selected literature pieces. Students will learn to effectively express their ideas and opinions through classroom discussions, oral presentations (with and without visual aids), and written reviews. A variety of resources will be used to help further develop spelling, vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills.

Language Arts 7

Grade: 7th

Textbook Title: Pearson myPerspectives, NoRedInk (online), Write from the Beginning and Beyond, independent works of literature

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: The course of study for seventh graders will include literature studies from independent works of literature (from a variety of different genres), with an emphasis on interpretation and

analysis (focusing primarily on literary terms, figurative language, and the six traits of writing). Students will be taught how to organize, format, and craft essays and research-based papers, with an emphasis on the six traits of writing and grammar.

Language Arts 8

Grade: 8th

Textbook Title: Write from the Beginning and Beyond, Pearson My Perspectives, and independent novels listed below

Websites: NoRedInk, CommonLit, Flocabulary, Newsela

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: The course of study for eighth graders will consist of literature studies from independent novels including The Hiding Place, The Pearl, Diary of Anne Frank, and short stories within the approved textbook. Reading will be done for the enrichment of the literary process according to classic and modern works. They will work on reading comprehension and being able to read fluently and apply it effectively. Focus on life application and understanding of implied concepts will be developed through class discussions and various writing activities. Writing skills presented using the Six-Traits of Writing, Write From the Beginning along with the Jane Schaffer paragraph method. Students will continue to develop their writing portfolio. Additionally, the students will learn grammar with an emphasis on parts of speech and sentence structure. All students will have the opportunity to participate in the ACSI Speech Meet.

MATH DEPARTMENT -

Math 6

Grade: 6th

Textbook Title: Houghton Mifflin Math

Semester or Year-long Course: Year-long

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: Using models, writing, and math, students will apply their efficiency in math facts to increase their critical analysis and logical reasoning of number theory, integers, and rational numbers according to the ACT Aspire Math standards. Emphasis is placed on problem solving. This class includes an introduction to basic algebra concepts and geometry as well as analyzing data and probability.

Math 7

Grade: 7th

Textbook Title: Math Connects Course II by Glencoe-McGraw Hill

Semester or Year-long Course: Year-long

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: A math course aligned to national core concepts that will extend the student's work with integers, functions, rational numbers and solving linear equations. The student will develop an understanding and application of formulas for area and volume of three-dimensional figures. Students will study data analysis and probability.

Pre-Algebra

Grade: 7th

Textbook Title: Math Connects Course III by Glencoe-McGraw Hill

Semester or Year-long Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: A math course aligned to national core concepts that will extend the student's work with rational numbers, functions, and the real number system. Integrations of algebra and geometry is taught in the course. Emphasis is placed on problem solving. This class includes basic algebra concepts where the student will solve linear equations and systems of linear equations. The student will increase his knowledge of geometry by exploring parallel lines and applying Pythagorean Theorem. Students will study data analysis.

Math 8

Grade: 8th

Textbook Title: Math Applications and Connections Course 2 by Glencoe-McGraw Hill

Semester or Year-long Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: A math course that includes addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of real numbers and polynomials. Integrations of algebra and geometry is taught in the course. Emphasis is placed

on problem solving. This class is an introduction to basic algebra concepts. The course includes working with variables, solving equations with one and two variables, working with polynomials, factoring, graphing, and solving quadratic equations. It also covers the basic math concepts of fractions, decimals, percents and square roots.

Algebra 1-2

Grade: 8th

Textbook Title: Algebra by Houghton Mifflin

Semester or Year-long Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: Algebra 1-2—This class emphasizes the structure of Algebra in the development of computational problem solving skills. The course includes working with real numbers, solving equations and problems, polynomials, factoring, algebraic fractions, functions, systems of linear equations, inequalities, rational and irrational numbers and solving quadratic equations. This course is taken for high school credit.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT -

Science 6

Grade: 6th

Textbook Title: Science 6 by Christian Schools International

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: Students will apply basic principles of the inquiry and scientific methods of science. Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of the different forms of energy, including electricity. Students will increase their knowledge of the animal kingdom, states of matter, and types of weather through various strategies. Types of assessment include the "Bridge Building Competition", "Various Microscope Labs", etc.

Life Science

Grade: 7th

Textbook Title: Prentice Hall Life Science (Science Explorer)

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: This class is designed as an overview of Life Science. Labs focus on the use of the scientific method combined with cooperative learning and proper use of lab equipment with an eye on safety procedures. The classification system as well as the major plant and animal groups are studied. An emphasis is placed on the unique design features found in all living things. Students look forward to dissection of the worm and an amphibian.

Earth Science

Grade: 8th

Textbook Title: Prentice Hall Earth Science (Science Explorer)

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: The Earth Science course is designed to introduce the student to the structure of the Earth's system. There is a focus on orderly design, which can only be explained through the intimate involvement of a Designer. Topics such as Scientific Measurements, Topographic Maps, Rocks & Minerals, Weather, Plate Tectonics, Volcanoes, Earthquakes, the Universe, the Solar System, and Space Travel are included in this course. Students always enjoy making hot air balloons and building rockets.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT -

Social Studies 6

Grade: 6th

Textbook Title: Heritage Studies 6 by BJU Press

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: This course is an overview of ancient world history from early Mesopotamian society through the culture of Mesoamerica. Throughout the course, the technological advances, religion and daily life of each culture are emphasized. Special emphasis is placed on the long-lasting impact of these cultures

on the world today. Current events, geography, and basic fundamentals of economics are additional topics throughout the year.

Social Studies 7

Grade: 7th

Textbook Title: Creating America by McDougal Littell

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: This course is a yearlong survey of American History. It will include an overview from Colonization to the Civil War, with emphasis and in depth study of the fundamental event, persons and themes of the Civil War to the Vietnam War. Students will engage in skill development including: map and graph reading, critical reading and analysis. Student will be encouraged to use critical thinking skills and make application of historical knowledge in developing a Biblical worldview. The year will also include the American Heritage Field Trip.

Geography

Grade: 8th

Textbook Title: Discovering World Geography by McGraw - Hill

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Core

Course Description: This course is a study of the physical and cultural characteristics of all the continents of the world. Students will apply the five themes of geography, in addition to graph and map reading skills. Student will broaden their understanding through a variety of projects due throughout the semester. Additionally there is a financial unit using Dave Ramsey curriculum called Foundations in Personal Finance. Students will be encouraged to use critical thinking skills and make application to the real world and their personal lives throughout the course. Emphasis will be placed on developing cultural awareness and a biblical worldview.

ELECTIVES -

Art

Grade: 6th – 7th

Textbook Title: N/A

Semester or Yearlong Course: Semester

Course Description: The ART course seeks to foster and develop students' creative expression in various media, as well as their appreciation of God's beauty as reflected in nature. Sixth and seventh grade Art focuses on basic art techniques, allowing students to develop the skills to create 2- and 3-dimensional objects. Students are exposed to concepts and movements within art history as they conceptualize and create personal projects in a studio setting. Natural ability is not necessary, nor required, as students will be building their skills from the fundamentals provided in this course.

Art

Grade: 8th

Textbook Title: N/A

Semester or Yearlong Course: Semester

Course Description: This ART course continues to build higher level art skill in terms of creative thinking, problem solving, and executing an idea into a two-or three-dimensional form.

The elements and principles of art are studied and applied to projects, which further students' understanding of art criticism. Students will study artists, art styles, and color theory while exploring different techniques in a variety of art media (including, but not limited to, drawing, painting, sculpture, and wood burning). Grades are based on design, creativity, craftsmanship, effort, and application of processes and techniques.

Concert Band

Grade: 6th- 8th

Textbook Title: Standard of Excellence, Vol. II

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: Concert Band is open to any 6th-8th grade student with an interest in band, no audition necessary. Opportunities for chair placement auditions will occur, but are not required. It is recommended that students in this group have been playing an instrument for one year or more, however, previous experience is not required. Concert Band performs at semester concerts, chapels, and other school events

as needed. Students in this group will develop skills in fundamental musicianship. Students will be eligible for our California band festival in March.

Drama

Grade: 6th – 8th

Textbook Title: N/A

Semester or Yearlong Course: Semester

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: Performing Arts is a class designed to introduce the student to various types of performing arts including drama, vocal music, puppetry, instrumental music, and movement. Students are given the opportunity to experience different arts as well as learning about them and their production.

Introduction to French

Grade: 6th - 8th

Semester or Yearlong Course: Semester

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: In this semester course, students will learn to exchange information in simple terms about topics relating to themselves, their family, and their leisure activities in French. They will be introduced to the culture of French-speaking countries and regions. The emphasis will be on vocabulary development and basic grammatical structures. The main goal of this course is to progress toward authentic oral communication for use in travel and communication with the francophone community.

Middle School Choir (Boys Choir/Girls Choir)

Grade: 6th – 8th

Textbook Title: Various choral music

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: Middle School Choir is open to all 6th-8th grades students with an interest in choral performance. This is a non-audition choir and no choral experience is necessary. Students will be given an overview of various musical styles and will learn to follow musical scores, match pitch, perform basic choral warm-ups, identify musical symbols in various compositions, perform beginning sight-reading exercises and perform in four concerts throughout the year. Each spring the choir is invited to participate in a choral music festival in southern CA.

Advanced Choir

Grade: 7th – 8th

Textbook Title: Various choral music

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: Advanced Choir is open to all 7th-8th grades students with an interest in choral performance. Enrollment in this class is by audition, and prior choral experience is helpful but not necessary. Auditions are held in May of the previous year. Students will be given an overview of various musical styles and will learn to follow musical scores, match pitch, perform basic choral warm-ups, identify musical symbols in various compositions, sight-read basic melodies, and perform in four concerts throughout the year. Each spring the advanced choir is invited to participate in a choral music festival in southern CA.

Middle School Student Council

Grade: 6th – 8th

Textbook Title: N/A

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: Middle School Student Council is a leadership and service oriented group that provides activities and rewards for all middle school students throughout the year. Student Council members need to be energetic, creative, dedicated and responsible. We have put on activities such as Spirit Week, Valentine's Carnival, movie nights, candy grams and more.

Multimedia- Yearbook (Formerly Yearbook/Newspaper)

Grade: 6th – 8th

Textbook Title: Jostens

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: This class is a one-year elective that produces the Middle School yearbook. In the yearbook portion of the class students will learn basic digital photography skills, layout and graphic design,

picture planning, interviewing, and caption writing. The class will also learn how to advertise and sell the yearbook. In the news video production portion the students will learn how to produce a monthly news show involving storyboarding, videotaping, editing, directing, speaking and interviewing, and computer graphics.

Members of the yearbook-news staff are expected to have the ability to work independently. They must also be able to attend school events outside of class time.

Photography

Grade: 6th – 8th

Textbook Title: N/A

Semester or Yearlong Course: Semester

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: MS Photography is a semester course that will help students develop an interest and ability in digital photography. Students will acquire an understanding of the principles of good composition, how a camera works, and how to edit or enhance for greater impact. Students will use Adobe Photoshop Elements and learn how to layer, crop, apply color and lighting concepts, adjust hue and saturation, and manipulate exposures and special effects to images. Graphic design, artistic elements, and software skills are taught while editing photographs and producing graphic images.

Physical Education

Grade: 6th - 8th

Textbook Title: N/A

Semester or Yearlong Course: Semester or yearlong

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description:

Physical Education is a course designed to educate our Northwest Christian students in the following areas:

- Physical Fitness
- Health and Wellness
- Nutrition
- Leadership
- Team Work

In order to achieve this, a student participating in the Physical Education course will be provided with a well-balanced curriculum that incorporates a mixture of teacher instruction within the classroom, gymnasium, and outdoors. The Physical Education course aims to develop well-rounded students that excel in both the physical and cognitive lessons being instructed. Each student will be required to participate in a variety of team sports and physical games, building motor skills and enhancing overall personal fitness, as well as written and text book related activities and instruction. The Physical Education course takes into consideration the whole person (spiritual, physical, mental, social, and emotional) as it educates and challenges students on the importance of health/fitness in their lives.

Spanish I

Grade: 6th - 8th

Textbook Title: Avancemos

Semester or Yearlong Course: Semester

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: Students will learn basic conversational Spanish, through controlled, transitional, and open-ended activities to assure the development of communication skills. Basic writing and grammar will be introduced as well as strategies that will help students learn how to approach learning a language more effectively. Within the semester course students are introduced to the cultures of various Spanish speaking countries and will have four days to make and enjoy Mexican food! After completion of Middle School Spanish a middle school seventh grade student will have the opportunity to take an aptitude test in order to test into High School Spanish and earn High School credit as an eighth grader.

Spanish II or III

Grade: 6th - 8th

Textbook Title: Avancemos

Semester or Yearlong Course: Semester

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: Spanish II will begin with a review of vocabulary and concepts learned in Spanish I. Students will then continue where Spanish I left off, using the textbook and a variety of learning techniques

to further their knowledge and understanding of the Spanish language. There will be four days to make and enjoy Mexican food also!

Symphonic Band

Grade: 6th- 8th

Textbook Title: Standard of Excellence, Vol. II

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: Symphonic Band is open to 6th- 8th grade students by audition only. Students in this group should have at least one year of experience with his or her instrument. The level of music performed in Symphonic Band is challenging and engaging, requiring band members to be committed musicians. Symphonic Band performs at semester concerts, chapels, football games, and other school events as needed. Students in this group will develop skills in advanced musicianship.

Technology Exploration I

Grade: 6th- 8th

Textbook Title: N/A

Semester or Yearlong Course: Semester

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: The Technology Exploration I course is a semester long elective for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. In this class, students will learn Google applications such as Documents, Slides, Classroom, and Gmail. We will complete a unit on internet safety and use other iPad applications such as iMovie and stop animation to tell stories as well as produce commercials. Students will also explore photography with the use of the iPad.

Technology Exploration II

Grade: 6th- 8th

Textbook Title: N/A

Semester or Yearlong Course: Semester

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: The Technology Exploration II course is a semester long elective for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. In this class, students will learn Google applications such as Documents, Slides, Classroom, and Gmail. We will complete a unit on internet safety and go further into iMovie and stop animation applications. Students will also explore photography with the use of the iPad, build a website, explore virtual reality with Google Cardboard, and utilize 3D printing technology.

Technology Exploration III

Grade: 6th- 8th

Textbook Title: N/A

Semester or Yearlong Course: Semester

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: The Technology Exploration III course is a semester long elective for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. In this class, students will learn basic Google applications, digital citizenship, and utilize Gamestar Mechanic to learn principles and strategy of video game design. Students will also work with stop animation, build a website, and use green screen technology as well as improve basic keyboard skills.

Worship Arts

Grade: 6th - 8th

Textbook: Various worship charts

Semester or Yearlong Course: Yearlong

Elective or Core: Elective

Course Description: Middle School Worship Arts is open by audition to all 6th-8th grade students. Students will focus on personal spiritual growth and musical proficiency and artistry, as they explore ways to lead and engage others in contemporary worship. Students will gain knowledge in the fundamentals of music theory for contemporary worship, and may receive basic training in piano, voice, guitar, and percussion. Students will select and audition on a primary instrument in May for participation in the class for the following school year. Primary instruments may include piano, voice, guitar (acoustic, electric, bass), and percussion. Other instruments may be used upon instructor approval. Worship teams will be formed within the class and teams may lead worship for chapel several times throughout the year. Students may also lead worship at the middle school choir concerts in October, December, and May.