

JUNIOR HIGH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

School Year 2011-2012

JUNIOR HIGH BIBLE

Bible 6

Bible 6 begins with a study of the setting of the Bible – the original languages, the types of literature, the timeline and organization of the books, and the geography of the land of Israel. Students will then examine the books of Genesis and Exodus to observe God’s blessing and discipline in the ancient world. They will observe the consequences of man’s actions as they study the patriarchs, Moses’ leadership and the struggles when they enter the Promised Land under Joshua. Students will note the cycle of sin, repentance and deliverance throughout the time period of the judges. This course will finish with a study of Israel’s early monarchy under Saul, David and Solomon. Importance is placed on Bible memory as Matthew 5 is memorized in the 6th grade year.

Bible 7

Bible 7 covers the portion of Scripture from I Kings 11 through the early parts of the Gospels. Characters studied will include kings and prophets of Israel, kings and prophets of Judah, prophets during the exile, and leaders and prophets of the return. A brief look will be taken at the 400 year period between the Testaments. The curriculum then introduces the Gospels ending with Mary and Joseph making the Passover journey to Jerusalem during Christ’s childhood (Luke 2:41-52). Importance is placed on Bible memory with an emphasis on the Sermon on the Mount; Matthew 6 is memorized in Bible 7.

Bible 8

Bible 8 covers the New Testament portion of Scripture. We begin our study looking at the life of Jesus Christ. Time is spent studying individuals like Mary, the mother of Jesus, Elizabeth and Zechariah, and John the Baptist. Other topics will include the call of the disciples, Jesus’ miracles, religion, the parables, “Who do you say I am?” and the transfiguration. We will conclude the study looking at Jesus’ death and resurrection. From there we review Peter and Paul, the early church leaders. We study practical living as described in the epistles. Finally, if there is time we will study John and his book, Revelation.

JUNIOR HIGH LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 6

The sixth grade Language Arts program provides instruction for students to develop skills in proper grammar, written and spoken English, study skills, vocabulary, spelling, and the use of educational books and resources to further their knowledge and skill. It reviews and expands skills necessary for quality oral and silent reading comprehension. Reading skills will be integrated with the study of literature, which encompasses the various genres of short stories, novels, non-fiction works, and poetry. Writing and literature are correlated with other disciplines wherever possible.

Language Arts 7 and Writing Workshop

Seventh-grade English emphasizes communication skills introduced the previous year with a balanced program of reading, written and oral response, language study, and vocabulary. Students learn and apply active reading techniques to academic and independent reading selections. Frequent analytical, critical, and creative responses to literature build fluency and maturity in students’ written compositions. Integrated grammar instruction in the writing workshop course provides opportunities for constructive class-wide discussion and meaningful small group conferences for personalized coaching. Additionally, students learn and apply techniques for organizing, writing, and documenting research papers.

Language Arts 7 Honors and Writing Workshop

Students entering seventh-grade Honors English are expected to be proficient and motivated readers, writers, and thinkers. In addition to the general English requirements, Honors students engage in a variety of collaborative and inquiry-based learning opportunities designed probe deeper into the course literature by encouraging students to connect their reading to history, contemporary thought, current events, and other works of literature and art. These activities take many forms: newspaper/magazine analysis, informal debate, Socratic Seminars, research-based projects and presentations, and Literature Discussion Circles.

Language Arts 8 and Writing Workshop

Eighth-grade English emphasizes communication skills introduced the previous year with a balanced program of reading, written and oral response, language study, and vocabulary. Students use reading strategies and techniques to navigate and negotiate narrative structures of academic and independent texts. Students connect reading to themselves, others texts, and the world through dialogue-based Socratic Seminars. Frequent analytical, critical, and creative responses to literature continue to build students' writing fluency and maturity. Integrated grammar instruction in the writing workshop provides review of syntax and usage, class-wide lessons in advanced sentence construction, and small-group conferences for personalized coaching. Additionally, students learn and apply skills in testing source reliability, paraphrasing effectively, supporting ideas thoroughly, citing accurately, and synthesizing notes to write and document a formal research paper.

Language Arts 8 Honors and Writing Workshop

Students entering eighth-grade Honors English are expected to be proficient and motivated readers, writers, and thinkers. In addition to the general English requirements, Honors students engage in a variety of collaborative and inquiry-based learning opportunities designed to probe deeper into the course literature by encouraging students to connect their reading to history, contemporary thought, current events, and other works of literature and art. These activities include: newspaper/magazine analysis, informal debate, formal Lincoln-Douglas style debates, Socratic Seminars, research-based projects and presentation, and Literature Discussion Circles.

JUNIOR HIGH MATH

Math 6 (Grade 6)

The course is designed to prepare students for pre-algebra, as well as life. The students will be taught number sense and operation of whole numbers and decimals; fraction concepts and operations; geometry and spatial reasoning; ratio, proportion and percent; measurement – both customary and metric as well as length, perimeter, area and volume. Various problem-solving strategies will be taught. Their study of algebra will include number relationships, rational numbers, operations with integers, expressions, solving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division equations, patterns, inequalities, graphing on the coordinate plane, and exploring linear and nonlinear relationships.

Math 7

This course will focus on three main areas of mathematical study. Number sense and operations as it applies to both algebra and geometry, including an applied understanding of proportions and similarity. Measurement and geometry dealing with surface area and volume of three dimensional figures. The final is Numbers and operations as it is applied in Algebra; including solving linear equations and a deepened understanding of operations on all rational numbers. Along the way, you will learn more about problem solving, how to use the tools and language of mathematics, and how to think mathematically.

Pre-Algebra (Grade 7 Advanced Placement or Grade 8)

This course deals with algebraic reasoning and is designed to prepare students for Algebra I. Students are taught data analysis; integers – operations, powers, exponents and scientific notation; variables, expressions and equations; linear equations and inequalities; ratio and proportion; percent; number sense, rational number and irrational numbers; geometry and measurement; area and volume; algebra; functions and relationships; similarity, congruence and transformations; counting principles and probability.

JUNIOR HIGH SCIENCE

Earth Science (Grade 6)

Earth Science is a survey course involving many branches of science. Mineralogy and petrology provide hands-on experience with rocks and minerals at the start of the year. The study of geology continues with plate tectonics; forces that deform the earth's crust into various mountain types and cause earthquakes and volcanoes. Geological studies continue with forces that tear down the crust; weathering and erosion caused by rivers, glaciers, wind, and waves. In the spring of

the year, the focus of the course shifts to meteorology, the study of weather. Earth Science ends with a brief introduction to astronomy.

Life Science (Grade 7)

Life Science is an introductory study of living things. Students will learn how to identify and classify organisms and describe their relationship to one another in an ecosystem. The course has a strong emphasis on biological nomenclature and the defining characteristics of kingdoms, phyla, and classes. Students will have an opportunity to dissect earthworms, and frogs. They will relate the body design of an organism with its special adaptations and abilities. The goal of the course is for students to understand God's wisdom and power in the design and creation of living things.

Physical Science (Grade 8)

Physical Science is an introduction to the basic principles of both chemistry and physics. This course actually consists of two separate half-year components. In the chemistry sections, students will learn about the structure and function of matter, the periodic table, writing formulas, and representing chemical reactions with balanced equations. After a mid-year cumulative chemistry exam, students will then study physics topics in four broad categories; electricity and magnetism, motion and forces, work and simple machines, and wave properties of light and sound. There will be a cumulative physics test at the end of the school year.

JUNIOR HIGH SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 6

In Social Studies 6 students will be studying the Western Hemisphere and geography skills. A historical foundation will be laid for further study of American History. Emphasis is placed on the history of Canada and South America. Map, research, and critical thinking skills will be developed through the use of assignments, projects, and current events.

Social Studies 7

In Social Studies 7 students will be studying American History beginning with events from early exploration and ending with the Civil War. The students will also study Pennsylvania's place in U.S. History from its colonial foundation to modern times. Current Events are emphasized through the use of articles and class discussion. Research, critical thinking, and presentation skills will be taught through the use of class projects.

Social Studies 8

In Social Studies 8 students will begin a two-year study of the Eastern Hemisphere and the development of Western Civilization. In grade 8 students will study the development of ancient civilizations and end with the Middle Ages. Assignments and projects will further research and develop critical thinking skills. Biblical thinking is emphasized through a study of World Views and Current Events.

JUNIOR HIGH MUSIC

General Music 6

Music 6 is a required course for all sixth grade students. It builds upon the concepts learned in the elementary music curriculum by creating a more advanced understanding of the elements of music and giving a hands-on experience with handbell ringing. Students continue to explore correct vocal production through a sight-singing of solfège syllables and learning to sing alone and in a group.

General Music 7

Music 7 is a required course for all seventh graders. It gives a musical overview of the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods. Students discover the music of the major composers of each period, how God gifted musicians to compose music, and how the elements of music change from one historical period to the next. Emphasis is placed on learning to listen to music with discernment.

General Music 8

Music 8 is a required course for all eighth graders. It gives a musical overview of the Romantic and Modern style periods. Students discover the music of the major composers of each period, how God gifted musicians to compose music, and how the elements of music change from one historical period to the next. Emphasis is placed on learning to listen to music with discernment.

Junior High Ensemble (7th/8th grades only)

Junior High Ensemble is a select vocal group. This ensemble, chosen by audition, continues the process of learning to produce quality vocal sound by using correct singing technique and performing sacred and secular music from standard choral repertoire of varying style periods. Emphasis is placed on using God-given musical talents in the pursuit of excellence. Students must participate in choir to be in this ensemble.

Junior High Handbells (7th/8th grades only)

Throughout history, bells, in various forms, have been used in the worship of God. This course is designed to advance ringing technique through the performance of standard handbell literature. Various aspects of handbell technique and musicianship will be developed within the framework of ensemble ringing. This ensemble is open by audition only.

Junior High Choir

Junior High Choir is designed to teach the singer how to produce a quality vocal sound using correct singing techniques within the choral group. Repertoire includes sacred and secular music from the standard choral repertoire of varying style periods. This group is open to all students interested in singing. Students must interview with the choral director before joining the group. Emphasis is placed on using God-given talents in the pursuit of excellence.

Junior High Concert Band

The exercise of creative musical gifts to the glory of God is central to the Christian musician's growth and development. The emphasis on the characteristics of form, order, balance, and beauty reflect God and His universe. Junior High Concert Band is designed to provide the opportunity to develop God-given gifts in instrumental music to their fullest potential. Various aspects of instrumental technique and musicianship are advanced through the performance of sacred and secular standard band repertoire of varying style periods. This ensemble is open to any student who plays an instrument pending interview with the band director.

JUNIOR HIGH ART

Grade 6

Students will learn how to develop a greater appreciation of the visual arts through twelve diversified curriculum units. Students will be given opportunities to explore and develop various techniques and materials used in painting, drawing, sculpture, 2-D design, 3-D design, collage, ceramics, printmaking, crafts, computer graphics, and cooperative projects. Students will become familiar with various artists and their art. Students will develop basic visual art vocabulary, practical and technical skills, and sketching abilities.

Grade 7

Students will learn how to develop a greater appreciation of the visual arts through twelve diversified curriculum units. Students will be given opportunities to explore and develop various techniques and materials used in painting, drawing, sculpture, 2-D design, 3-D design, collage, ceramics, printmaking, crafts, computer graphics, and cooperative projects. Students will become familiar with various artists and their art. Students will develop basic visual art vocabulary, practical and technical skills, and sketching abilities.

Grade 8

Students will learn how to develop a greater appreciation of the visual arts through twelve diversified curriculum units. Students will be given opportunities to explore and develop various techniques and materials used in painting, drawing, sculpture, 2-D design, 3-D design, collage, ceramics, printmaking, crafts, computer graphics, and cooperative projects. Students will become familiar with various artist and their art. Students will develop basic visual art vocabulary, practical and technical skills, and sketching abilities.

JUNIOR HIGH TECHNOLOGY COURSES

Grade 6 Computers

1. Basic computer functionality (for those unfamiliar and to the extent necessary to function in the classroom).
2. Basic elements of a computer and how the parts work together.
3. The student will be instructed in the basics of touch typing.
4. As time permits, exploration of other applications.

Grade 7 Computers

1. Basic computer functionality (for those unfamiliar and to the extent necessary to function in the classroom).
2. Conceptual purposes of word processing and spreadsheet application usage. As time permits, an introduction to database development (beyond flat file database development in Excel) will also be included.
3. Introduction to Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Office as an integrated package, including embedding documents and portions of documents across applications.
4. Encouraging and facilitating the student to incorporate and use Word and Excel for school work.
5. Additionally, students will be asked to solve various “office” or “professional” problems with the computing power of the above applications.
6. As time permits, the basic components of Access will also be introduced.

Grade 8 Multimedia

1. The students will have the opportunity to work with two key programs with vast possibilities and usage:
 - a. Microsoft Power Point.
 - Basic concepts of audience identification and thematic design.
 - Presentation arrangement, structure, and style.
 - Introduction to the components of PowerPoint, including templates, slide design and appearance, and transitions.
 - b. Adobe Photoshop
 - Basic concepts of image storage and representation in the digital world.
 - Application of these building blocks to express the students’ creativity in their area of interest (web design, original images, image repair and touch up, creative image editing).

Junior High Yearbook

The yearbook class is offered to provide students with the opportunity to use creative skills while they design and produce pages in the combined junior and senior high school yearbook. They will work with each other to photograph and document the events during the school year. Individual emphasis is placed on meeting deadlines and the quality of the pages submitted. Students may be asked to submit a written application. If accepted into the class, they are committing to the class for the full year.

LATIN

The PCS Junior High Latin Program introduces students to the structure of an inflected language through the study of Latin vocabulary, grammar and syntax. Students make connections with English by comparing and contrasting these elements, with the goal of enhancing English vocabulary and grammar skills while also developing a strong basis for the study of the Romance languages: French, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian. The history of the Roman Empire and its influence on Western civilization as well as the importance of Latin in the early Christian church are also introduced in the program. Students learn classical Latin pronunciation with Latin prayers, songs and dialogs providing opportunities for them to speak the language.

The curriculum uses a variety of materials including the Rosetta Stone computer program and the Phenomenon of Language Tabula Latina workbook.

Latin is offered as an enrichment course once every six day cycle for 6th grade and twice for 7th and 8th grades.

Grade 6

Students in 6th grade Latin will not be assigned homework but will receive a grade based upon participation, conduct, a notebook kept in class and a quiz at the end of the quarter.

Grade 7 & 8

In addition to grades for participation, conduct and a notebook, students will have periodic tests and quizzes as well as occasional homework during the year. All information will appear on the quiz and test schedule and homework hotline.

Physical Education Program

Grades 6, 7, 8

Physical conditioning is the backbone of the Plumstead Christian Physical Education program. Activity options offered but not limited to, are tennis, golf, flag football, aerobics, dance, soccer, field hockey, softball, lacrosse, badminton, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, team handball, and pickle ball.

Physical Education Objective:

The goal of Physical Education at Plumstead Christian School is to improve the Physical Fitness level of students, to make health and activity a vital part of their lifestyle and to introduce them to a wide variety of lifetime activities.