



HICKORY GROVE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2019-2020
MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE OFFERINGS

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HGCS Middle School 2019-2020 Course Selection Catalog

Parents and students, carefully review the course descriptions outlined in the Course Selection Catalog for the 2019-2020 school year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the school office or the grade level chairs.

English Chair

Science Chair

Math Chair

Social Studies Chair

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CORE CLASSES

Descriptions for core classes are categorized by grade level and subject. Students in middle school will be required to take the following core classes:

1. Bible
2. English
3. Science
4. Social Studies
5. Math

HOW TO READ THE ELECTIVE SECTION OF CATALOG

1. Course Title: name of the elective course
2. Grade Level: which grade levels can take the elective course
3. Course Description: summary of the elective course

ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses will be graded. All students will be required to take 2 electives each semester for a total of 4 for the year. Each grade level has a certain number of electives they will be required to take and a certain number of electives they can choose to take. Please refer to the following chart for information concerning which electives are required and which electives students can choose to take.

Grade Level	Required Electives	Choice Electives
6th	Computer I PE / Health Study Skills I	Spanish Prep Art Beginning Band Drama Chorus
7th	Study Skills II	Spanish Prep Art Intermediate Band Drama Chorus PE / Health Computer Prog.
8th	Spanish for HS Yearlong Credit	Art Intermediate Band Drama Chorus PE / Health Computer Prog.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CURRICULUM

BIBLE

6th Grade Bible

Building on the Rock

A World of Worldviews

Publisher: Summit Ministries

Children form beliefs and values early in life and bring these to school and into the classroom. These foundational beliefs and values influence how students interpret knowledge and govern how they act. Building on the Rock is designed to help students interpret knowledge and build foundational beliefs and values from a Christian perspective. In an age of competing worldviews, this curriculum will help young students formulate a biblical perspective of the world and then live accordingly.

7th Grade Bible

Building on the Rock

A World of Worldviews

Publisher: Summit Ministries

In 7th grade students will continue to build upon the biblical perspectives that were introduced in 6th grade. Building on the Rock is designed to help students interpret knowledge and build foundational beliefs and values from a Christian perspective.

8th Grade Bible

Light Bearers Curriculum published by Summit Ministries is designed to help students clearly understand the Christian worldview. Students will learn how to apply their Christian faith to every area of life. The goal is to prepare students for humanistic ideas they will encounter and equip them to stand strong in their Christian faith.

Greek will be incorporated in all Bible classes (6-8)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CURRICULUM

ENGLISH

6th grade English

Textbooks: *Word Within a Word Vocabulary; Reading & Writing Workshop*

Students study writing, literature, vocabulary, and grammar. The sixth grade English program strives to heighten the reading comprehension of the students through the study of and response to different literary genres. Grammar is taught through writing to develop correct word usage, mechanics, and punctuation. The objective of the writing curriculum is to help students develop an understanding of correct sentence and paragraph structure with a focus on narrative and descriptive writing. Vocabulary is taught through systematic units that help students improve and expand their vocabulary skills by focusing on word structure and meaning.

7th Grade English

Textbooks: *Word Within a Word Vocabulary; Shurley English Grammar; Reading and Writing Workshop*

Students study writing, literature, vocabulary, and grammar. The seventh grade English program continues with the development of reading comprehension skills through the analysis of different literary genres. Grammar is taught through writing to develop correct word usage, mechanics, and punctuation. The objective of the writing curriculum is to help students develop an understanding of informative writing and literary analysis. Vocabulary is taught through systematic units that help students improve and expand their vocabulary skills through learning synonyms, antonyms, parts of speech, and correct word usage in context.

8th Grade English

Textbooks: *Word Within a Word Vocabulary; Shurley English Grammar; Reading and Writing Workshop*

Students study writing, literature, vocabulary, and grammar. The eighth grade English program emphasizes critical reading skills through synthesis and evaluation of different literary genres. Grammar is taught through writing to develop correct word usage, mechanics, and punctuation. The objective of the writing curriculum is to help students develop an understanding of persuasive/argumentative writing and to develop research writing skills. Vocabulary is taught through systematic units that help students improve and expand their vocabulary skills through learning synonyms, antonyms, parts of speech, and correct word usage in context.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CURRICULUM

SCIENCE

6th Grade Science

Textbook: Houghton-Mifflin: *Science Fusion A + B*

Students study life science in the 6th grade. The life science curriculum covers the cells, heredity, creation vs. evolution, vertebrates, invertebrates, viruses, one-celled organisms and plants. These concepts are presented through a variety of activities that makes life science come alive in the classroom.

7th Grade Science

Textbook: McDougall/Littell *Physical Science*

Students study physical science in the 7th grade. Our 7th grade science curriculum is a wonderful balance of content and activities. There is a large focus on the scientific method. Students will be able to design and conduct their own investigations and participate in many classroom lab experiments. Other topics covered include energy, machines, speed, acceleration, force, pressure, the behavior and properties of gases, atoms, atomic structure, elements on the Periodic Table, chemical reactions, polymers, electricity, and magnetism.

8th Grade Science

Textbook: McDougall/Littell *Earth Science*

Students study earth science in the 8th grade. This curriculum focuses on God's creation and how the design of the earth supports life. This will include the surface of the earth, the atmosphere, space, and water. Students participate in many hands on activities such as labs and projects.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CURRICULUM

SOCIAL STUDIES

6th Grade Social Studies

Textbook: *History Alive! The Ancient World*

The students in this course will explore the early civilizations of Ancient Egypt, the near East, India, China, Greece, and Rome. Students will also work toward an understanding of the political, economic, and social significance of historical events, individuals, and cultural groups. Finally, students will evaluate the influence on the development of the modern world.

7th Grade Social Studies

Textbook: *History Alive! Medieval World and Beyond*

This course is an overview of history and geography from the fall of the Roman Empire through the Age of Exploration. Emphasis is placed on the cultures and religions in the civilizations studied. Students will also be exposed to architecture, literature, and plays written during or about the specific periods of time being studied. Through these areas, the students will gain an understanding of the origins of various influences in our world today.

8th Grade Social Studies

Textbook: *History Alive! The United States through Industrialism*

History Alive! Is an Interactive Curriculum that takes students on a historic journey beginning with the first Americans. Students will learn how their nation was created and shaped through war, reform, change and conflicts throughout American History. 8th grade students travel to Washington, DC to experience part of their curriculum firsthand in October each year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CURRICULUM

MATH

6th Grade Math

Textbook: *Reveal Math Course 1*, McGraw-Hill Education

In sixth grade, students will wrap up their studies of operations with fractions and decimals with an emphasis on division on both, and begin to extend the number line to negative numbers. They will also begin learning about ratios and rates and how to use them to solve problems. Thirdly, we will begin to lay the foundation of their middle school math experience by using expressions and equations to express quantities. Finally, we will begin to build an understanding of statistical reasoning.

7th Grade Math

Textbook: *Reveal Math Course 2*, McGraw-Hill Education

In seventh grade, we will build on students' understanding of ratios and rates and begin applying that to proportional relationships. We will build on their knowledge of negative numbers by applying the four operations to them. Thirdly, we will solve problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and gain more insight into two- and three- dimensional shapes with regards to area, surface area, and volume. Finally, we will begin to draw inferences about populations based on samples.

8th Grade Math

Textbook: *Reveal Math Course 3*, McGraw-Hill Education

In eighth grade, students will take what they know about expressions and equations and apply it to linear equations in one or two variables. They will also begin to develop an understanding of the concept of a function and use them to describe quantitative relationships. Finally, we will learn about the Pythagorean Theorem and apply it to the concepts of similarity and congruence.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CURRICULUM

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students will take 2 electives each semester.

Course Title: Spanish

Grade Levels: 6-8

Course Description: Starting in the 6th grade, students will be exposed to their first years of Spanish. Students may explore culture and conversation in Spanish in 6-7th grade. The course will cover simple grammar and verb conjugations along with a heavy emphasis on vocabulary. Topics covered in the course are numbers, weather, time, days of the week, months, seasons, simple greetings, colors, classroom vocabulary, household vocabulary, animals, food, sports, and physical descriptions.

Course Title: Spanish

Grade Levels: 8

Course Description: Yearlong Spanish I for High School credit required unless special permission is granted.

Course Title: Computer Science

Grade Levels: 6-7-8

Course Description: Students use the computers in a variety of different applications between 6th and 7th grade. The students improve typing skills as well as learn to use and manipulate keyboard and Google Suite. We create many different projects using the various programs. We also begin learning basic programming skills using blocks and progressing through HTML and CSS.

Course Title: Computer Programming

Grade Levels: 7-8

Course Description: Students use ...

Course Title: Art

Grade Levels: 6-8

Course Description: In Middle School, art students are introduced to a variety of art mediums and techniques. As students progress through middle school they are challenged in art to use their creativity and develop artistically. Students should be expected to learn about: elements of art, drawing, cartooning, painting, crafts, graphic design, illustration, and printmaking. In each topic we will learn about art history, discuss techniques and develop skills that will improve art making.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CURRICULUM

ELECTIVE COURSES, CONTINUED

Students will take 2 electives each semester.

Course Title: P.E.

Grade Levels: 6-8

Course Description: Through our course in Physical Education, we will cover various individual and team sports that focus on the five aspects of physical fitness (muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiorespiratory endurance, body composition, and flexibility) as well as the skill related components of physical fitness (coordination, speed, agility, reaction time, balance, and power). Some of the sports we will cover include football, soccer, baseball, volleyball, basketball, jump rope, and aerobics. Students will be tested on their knowledge of the rules of each sport and/or their skill level of each sport.

Course Title: Drama

Grade Levels: 6-8

Course Description: Middle School Drama offers training in improvisation, pantomime, acting, and introduction to the theatre. Basic staging, various interactive games, activities, and scripts will afford students the opportunity to explore and expand their creativity and expression. There will be opportunities for involvement in a middle school performance, and also possible involvement in the HS Spring Drama Production, as well as a Middle School production.

Course Title: Beginner Band

Grade Levels: 6-8

Course Description: The primary goals of the Beginner/Intermediate Middle School Band are as follows: The performance of grade 1 and 2 (6th grade) music; to give new students an opportunity to learn an instrument, and to prepare students for more challenging parts in the Advanced group. This group is recommended for all 6th grade students who have had two or less years of band or have little to no experience with playing an instrument. Students who show improvement over the course of the year will be recommended for the Advanced group.

Course Title: Intermediate Band

Grade Levels: 7-8

Course Description: The primary goals of the Advanced Middle School Band are as follows: the performance of more difficult band compositions; participation in district band events; provide support for school events such as pep rallies, chapel services, etc.; continue development of the ideas and concepts introduced in the Elementary School Band (tone production, rhythmic ability, reading music, musical vocabulary, ensemble playing, etc.). The Advanced Band is designed for mainly 7th and 8th graders to be a preparation for the High School Band.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

ELECTIVE COURSES, CONTINUED

Students will take 2 electives each semester.

Course Title: Choir

Grade Levels: 6-8

Course Description: The primary goals of the Middle School Chorus are as follows: Training voices in the area of pitch, tone quality, intervals, melody, harmony, part singing; proper vocal techniques; stage presence; introduction to various genres of choral/vocal music; participation in Chapels, Community singing events, etc.; Christmas program; Christmas caroling; opportunity to get elected to serve as Choir officers each semester; foundation training for advancement to Middle School select singing groups and also for the HS Choir and HS Honors Ensemble.

Course Title: Musical Theater

Grade Levels: 7-8

Course Description: This is an introductory course. This class offers an opportunity to engage the performing arts through tap, singing and acting. Students will rotate practicing these three art forms on a regular basis. Students will research different musicals and learn practices that are specific to musical theater. The students will have an opportunity to perform at the end of the semester in our school's musical based upon audition. This is a great class to enroll in to get a taste of all aspects of the Performing Arts at once.

Course Title: Study/Life Skills

Grade Levels: 6-7-8 (required)

Course Description: The primary goal of this course is to improve student organization and study skills. An emphasis is placed on learning styles and strategies, organization, active listening, test-taking strategies, and student success at all grade levels. *We reserve the right to place students in this class if there is a need based on teacher or Administrator recommendation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CURRICULUM

HONORS COURSES

Honors classes are offered to students in 8th grade in the area of science, history, English, and math. Honors level classes require higher-level thinking, more time commitment out of class, additional assignments and projects. Tests and quizzes also differ in content, format, and teacher assessment.

Students who successfully complete an honors level course will receive an additional point in their GPA. A student can qualify for honors science, history, and English based upon their final yearly average of a 95 or higher in the course in 7th grade and no more than two homework violations. A student's Iowa Assessment score should be at or above grade level for honors placement. Work ethic is also considered.

Honors math is offered beginning in 6th grade based upon the criteria of an overall average of 95 or higher, standardized test scores, work ethic, and teacher recommendation.

All seventh grade honors students must have successfully completed the Fundamentals of Algebra Course in order to take the Foundations of Algebra Course. All eighth grade honors math students must have completed the Foundations of Algebra Course to take Honors Algebra. A student's score on the Orleans Hanna Readiness Test for Algebra I also determines placement.