

DMCS

DES MOINES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Middle School Course Descriptions

18-19 School Year

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BIBLE

Bible 6 – Redemption: God’s Grand Design

Our sixth grade Bible curriculum is “Redemption- God’s Grand Design.” The course surveys parts of the Old and New Testaments, conducting an in-depth study of selected passages. We trace God’s plan of redemption before Creation, His provision to His people through time, the message of the prophets, and the birth, life, and death of Jesus Christ. Students will become acquainted with Bible history and see God’s faithfulness throughout time. Students will also participate in activities to help them apply Scripture to important issues faced by sixth grade students. Some units covered are Creation and God’s Covenant through the generations, Moses and the Law, the Jewish Royal House and God’s provision through the Kings of Judah, our redemption through Jesus, and our responsibility to spread the good news of Jesus. Students will also memorize passages related to our units and have various writing projects over the year that will personalize what they are learning in class.

Bible 7 – New Testament Survey

This New Testament survey course examines the 27 books of the New Testament. The survey begins with the Intertestamental period and continues through the book of Revelation. The students will learn about the author, context and main teachings of each book. Students will learn a theme to remember each book. In addition to the survey, students will be taught spiritual disciplines that they will practice throughout the year. These will include praying for others, ACTS prayer, SOAP journaling, and Bible memorization. Students will learn about evangelism and be able to put it into practice with elementary students. Through discussion, projects, and challenging questions, students will be encouraged to look at their lives and their futures from a Biblical perspective, and they will learn how the history of the Bible affects the world we live in today.

Bible 8

The students will understand, write, and apply a Biblical worldview in each of the following areas: Theology, Philosophy, Biology, Psychology, Ethics, Sociology, Law, Politics, Economics, and History. In doing so, they will be able to address and answer big life questions that define the reason for faith in Christ, as well as have meaningful conversations with others that do and do not share their faith. Students will understand their own worldview, as well as the worldview of others through their textbook *Lightbearers*, videos, class discussions, projects, guest speakers, outside of school experiences, and self-reflection journaling.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 6

Students will study the 8 parts of speech and other grammatical mechanics of the English language. Application of these skills is enforced for our formal and informal pieces of writing. In reading, students will explore many different genres of text throughout the year. They will learn about classic literary concepts like symbolism, theme, similes, metaphors, onomatopoeic language, etc. while developing their critical thinking abilities through the analysis of the different texts.

Language Arts 7

In Language Arts 7, students study the grammar, usage, and mechanics of the English language. An emphasis is placed on the parts of speech, correct sentence structure, and excellent paragraph formation. Students also read classic literature from both British and American authors, including C.S. Lewis, Charles Dickens, and Esther Forbes, and they study Greek mythology and its impact on American culture. In addition, they write a variety of argumentative, informative, research, and narrative pieces and present their thoughts to their peers.

Language Arts 8

In Language Arts 8, students study the grammar, usage, and mechanics of the English language and complete a more exhaustive and in-depth analysis of the parts of speech, sentence classification and structure, and phrases/clauses. In addition, students read classic literature from both British and American authors, including William Shakespeare and Mark Twain. As a complement to their novels, students write a variety of argumentative, informative, research, and narrative pieces and present their knowledge, findings, and research to their peers.

MATH

Math 6

In sixth grade, students will receive instruction in and demonstrate the ability to perform basic mathematical functions and problem solving in the areas of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, ratio and proportion, pre-algebra, and geometry.

Math 7

In Math 7 students will extend their understanding of numbers to include rational numbers and proportional thinking. We will continue working with equations and inequalities as well as different geometry concepts, working with graphing on the coordinate plane, and data analysis and probability.

Pre-Algebra 8

In Pre-Algebra students will continue to work with rational numbers and proportional thinking. They will work with simplifying algebraic expressions and solving multi-step equations and inequalities. Students will learn how to graph linear equations and systems of equations. We will also extend our knowledge of different geometry concepts and statistics and probability.

SCIENCE

Science 6

Our sixth grade science curriculum delves into understanding concepts and relationships of physical science in God's world. Students will study concepts and perform many hands-on investigations while studying Matter, Chemical Reactions, Forces and Motion, Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation, and Energy. They will use Engineering Design by participating in our Science Fair, researching, analyzing data, collaborating and creating an invention that solves a problem. Students will also be studying a unit called Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs to learn about and see the effects of these substances on our bodies and to see what God's Word says about these. We also partner with the Urbandale Police Department in their Culture of Integrity, a study of integrity in issues of bullying, use of social media, substance abuse, and respect for authority.

Life Science 7

In Life Science, we will explore the basic structures and functions of what we consider to be living organisms. We start by examining what the characteristics ALL living organisms must have, then move into the cellular structures and processes associated with living things.

Earth Science 8

In Earth Science we explore the different ideas about how earth was formed, our place in the universe, different natural resources, and natural disasters that affect our everyday lives. There will be an emphasis on study skills, time management, and deadlines for assignments, in order to prepare students for the rigors of High School. We will examine the different evolutionary ideas that we are confronted with in today's society and compare those ideas with Christian ideas of creation.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 6

In sixth grade, students will focus on geography, history, and culture in global regions. Students will analyze regional, physical, and cultural characteristics of places. The analysis will show how these factors influenced people who lived there and how the people and characteristics have changed over time. Sixth graders will also learn about financial literacy using the Junior Achievement Biz Town curriculum.

Global Studies 7

In Global Studies 7, students study large-scale historical events and analyze the impact these events have on our present-day culture. We will study events like the Cold War and Communism, the Conflict in the Middle East and Islam, as well as the Civil Rights movement and its impact today. Students will consider what it means to be a Christ follower in our changing world, and look at these sometimes controversial issues from a Christian viewpoint. Students will read two novels throughout the year, participate in class discussion, and complete a variety of projects including a Model UN.

Civics 8

Civics is designed to give our students a better understanding of the framework of government on both the national and local level. Some of the key concepts we will cover are the Constitution, the branches of government, civil rights, and political ideology. Through this course students will gain a deeper understanding of their own political thought, and the thoughts of those in power. We will also spend a lot of time discussing current events. We are careful to take the time to look at our government and legislation with a Biblical worldview.

MUSIC

Band 6

Music is a magnificent gift from God intended for man's enjoyment and edification, and the Creator's glory. As such, even at this level of skill, we will strive to not only have an enjoyable experience, but to "work heartily, as unto the Lord." In doing so, our goal is to develop the musical knowledge and skills needed to produce the best music possible at this level. At DMCS, band in 6th grade is an elective and meets for rehearsal on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday for 40 minutes. Once a week 20 minute small group lessons occur at various times as well. Rehearsals are comprised of warm-up exercises, chorales, and scales, followed by work on full band music of various styles. Much of this music will be performed for an audience. The main performances are our band and choir Christmas concert in December, and the 5-12 Parade of Bands concert in May. In addition, during January and February, all students will be preparing a solo to be performed with piano accompaniment at our DMCS 5th and 6th Solo Festival, held here in our performing arts area.

Choir 7/8

In 7th/8th grade choir we develop independent musicianship skills through solfege, basic note reading, proper singing technique, and performance etiquette. Throughout the year sight singing and concert music will be used to facilitate the understanding of these techniques. Additionally we have a winter Christmas concert and a spring concert to demonstrate the skills learned in rehearsal. There are also opportunities to audition for local and state honor choirs.

ENCORE CLASSES

Outdoor Education – 7

This unit will consist of all things outdoors. Throughout the Outdoor Education Unit students will learn about preparing themselves for the different types of weather we may have in the Midwest and independent self-awareness and self-defense. They will also learn how to prepare their bodies prior, during, and after an outdoor athletic events as well as understand the basic usage of bicycles, boats, and ATV's.

Business Bootcamp - 7

This encore class will be broken up into two major units: (1) Personal Finance and (2) A Resort Business Simulation. Throughout the personal finance unit, students will learn about saving, budgeting, credit, debit, investing, insurance, and more. In the resort business simulation, students will create their own resort concept by using a variety of business techniques.

Conversational Spanish – 7 & 8

Students will explore Spanish-speaking cultures, learn Spanish vocabulary and communicate with their peers in Spanish.

Leadership - 7

What is Leadership? What does it mean to lead, and can I do it? Character is the first step in becoming a leader. This course is designed for 7th grade students to explore how the Bible defines leadership and discover how everyone has the ability to demonstrate leadership qualities in their daily lives. Through a series of activities, projects, interviews, and facilitated discussions students will learn to develop individual and group leadership skills to impact their lives and their communities. Areas of focus will include biblical foundations of leadership, how to live out leadership, and how character shapes our ability to lead.

Career and Calling – 8

Who am I? Why am I here? DMC is excited to offer this brand new course in which 8th grade students will explore college and career readiness in conjunction with our kingdom calling as believers. Students will complete *College and Career Inventory Assessments* and analyze and design a *Personalized Action Plan* with next steps as they move into high school. Students will have exposure to and experience with soft skills needed for the career world, as well as experiment with technologies that help and hinder the development and application of career soft skills.

Film & Edit – 8

Students will create iMovie projects. This process starts with capturing the footage and ending with a complete edited short movie project. Students will practice and develop the following skills. Taking footage, capturing audio, importing footage to computer, Video editing basics, Uploading to youtube, Using google classroom to post projects. Students will be able to film and edit short projects by the end of this class.

Art Foundations – 8

8th grade will learn and put into practice the elements and principles of art and design as they create a variety of works of art. This includes learning about the order and beauty that God endowed to creation. They will use many art mediums including but not limited to - drawing (chalk, graphite, colored pencil, ink), painting (water color, acrylic, tempura), sculpture (wood, cardboard, mixed media) and ceramics.