



GRADE EIGHT OVERVIEW

Classroom Structure

Academic classes meet on a block schedule each day throughout the year. Each period is approximately 50 minutes in length. Students attend P.E. and Performing Arts for 50 minutes twice each week.

School Day

8:45a – 3:30p

Academics

Bible

We use the Route 66 curriculum to learn more about the New Testament, along with focusing and reflecting upon daily Scripture passages. We are also incorporating a Biblical interpretation component this year, which includes learning the Greek alphabet; learning to use Bible reference materials; and the culmination of the project in a short paper that interprets a chosen Bible passage.

Grammar

A Beka grammar curriculum is used. The concepts learned include capitalization and punctuation; the sentence; verbs; nouns; pronouns; adjectives; adverbs; and prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

Math

Heath Mathematics – Integrated Algebra/Geometry

Heath is a spiraling curriculum with each year building on the year before. Eighth graders will graduate with the ability to enter either a traditional or integrated high school math program. Most will be equipped to enter advanced programs.

Reading

We read novels, short stories, and poems to discover strategies good readers use. The scheduled seventh grade novels include:

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

The Endless Steppe by Esther Hautzig

Sensei: The Life Story of Irene Webster-Smith by Russell T. Hitt

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

Redwall by Brian Jacques

Students also spend approximately thirty minutes each school night engaging in outside reading.

Science

Bob Jones – Life Science

Highlights in this class include study in astronomy with specific constellation study, as well as building and launching rockets. Students also do an in-depth science experiment using the scientific process, and display their finished experiment at the all school science fair.

Social Studies

Holt, Rinehard and Winston – Exploring America's Past

The study is of US History from the first Native to inhabit our continent through the 21st Century.

World Languages

The Rosetta Stone program, provided by the King County and the Sno-Isle Library Systems, is used one period per week. Each Student may choose the language that best suit his/her needs.

Spelling

We use the spelling program by Rebecca Stitton, focusing on learning high frequency words to improve spelling in everyday writing. Students are evaluated on core words, spelling skills, and proofreading, approximately every five days.

Vocabulary

We focus on grade-specific lists of words compiled by Jerome Shostak. Students will use the words in writing activities and will be tested on them weekly.

Writing

Students write descriptive, comparison/contrast, narrative, persuasive, how-to, and literary analysis essays. Narrative stories and poems are also written. Time is spent in class on pieces of the Science Fair projects.