

# Northshore Christian Academy

*Experience Excellence*



MIDDLE SCHOOL

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Course Descriptions  
and  
Co-Curricular Activities**

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### VISION STATEMENT

To Transform our communities by graduating resilient disciples of Christ who are spiritually equipped and academically prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Northshore Christian Academy partners with families to provide a superior Christian education developing spiritual, academic, and personal excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

## Core Courses

### Biblical Studies

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”

Matthew 28:19-20

The primary goal of our Bible courses is to make the Word of God more meaningful to the lives of our middle school students. We desire our young people to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. We endeavor to develop that relationship by equipping students with knowledge and application of the Word of God. Going beyond factual knowledge of the Scriptures, we hope to see wisdom and understanding imparted into every student’s life with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Character development, prayer, Bible memory work, and practical lessons, enable students to grow in faith and equip them to make good decisions.

#### Bible

**Required: Full Year**

Wise Up is a thematic study of the Word of God, focusing sixth grade students on principles that specifically apply to their lives. Studies are drawn from both Old and New Testament characters and the life of Jesus Christ. In order to win the race of life, students discover that a personal relationship with the Lord is foundational. From there, students build on that foundation by studying and applying the Bible for themselves.

## English Language Arts

“...God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning...” (Daniel 1:17)

The middle school language arts program is designed to inspire life-long readers, writers, and communicators through the *Amplify* curriculum. *Amplify ELA* helps students expand their appreciation of literature in multiple genres and learn to think critically while developing strong analytical skills from a Biblical worldview. Students work with a variety of written forms, developing their own voice and style. Students also reinforce grammar and vocabulary skills through weekly practice. We endeavor to equip students with clear writing skills and the ability to express themselves in an articulate manner.

#### English Language Arts

**Required: Full Year**

In *Amplify ELA*, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin with narrative writing ***Dahl & Narrative*** where they will quickly boost their writing production, to learn the foundational skill of focus, and to become comfortable with key classroom habits and routines. They will then move to ***Mysteries and Investigations*** and embark on a multi-genre study into the mesmerizing world of scientific and investigative sleuthing. At the end of the unit, students write an essay explaining which trait is most useful to problem-solving investigators. The next unit is the ***Chocolate Collection*** where students explore primary documents and conduct independent research to better understand the strange and wonderful range of roles that chocolate has played for centuries around the world. Students will then move to ***The Greeks Unit*** where they will begin to understand not only ancient Greek culture but also the world around us and our role in it. In our students' last Unit, ***The Titanic Collection***, students will learn how to tell the difference among primary, secondary, and tertiary

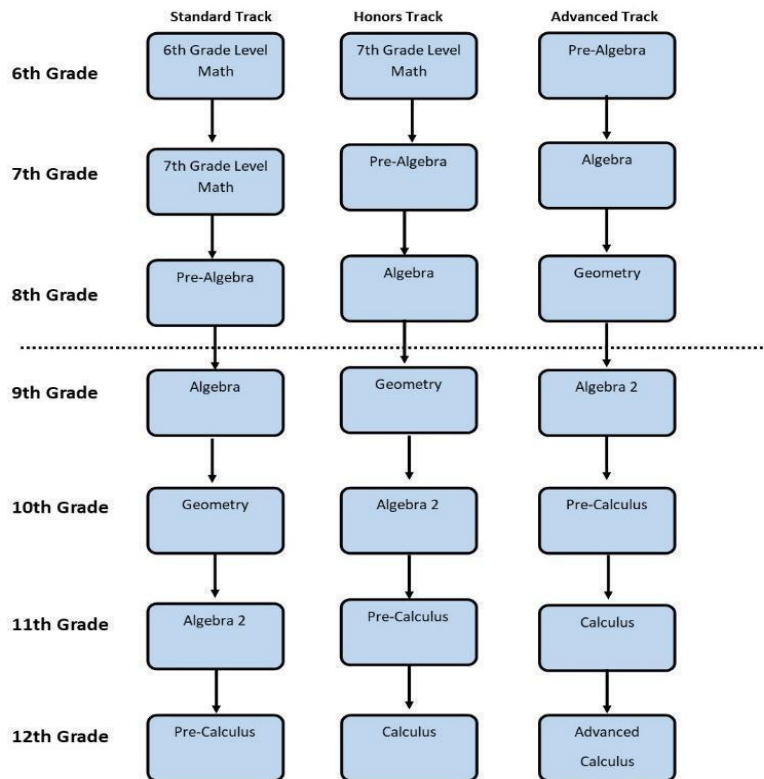
sources; determine if a given source is reliable; and understand the ethical uses of information. They will also take on the role of a passenger from the Titanic’s manifest as they research and write narrative accounts from the point of view of their passengers.

## Mathematics

“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20 NIV)

Our philosophy of education for middle school math is built upon the premise that God created a physical world of orderly relationships and patterns as He set the world in motion. While students are learning mathematics, they will understand the concept of absolute truth, and their minds will be strengthened through thinking and reasoning skills. Students will learn to go from the concrete to the abstract, from the particular to the general, from content to concept. They will also learn to process facts as part of the truth and order that God has built into reality. Each grade level builds upon previous learning in which mathematical concepts are distributed throughout the year for better retention and math mastery. Students will absorb new concepts and skills in small increments with plenty of practice. They will become proficient in problem-solving techniques preparing them for the next level of mathematics.

Math Progression at Northshore Christian Academy



*Students are placed in courses based upon teacher recommendations, placement exams, MAP scores, current achievement and motivation, and mastery of prerequisite concepts.*

**Big Ideas Sixth Grade Math**

**Required: Full Year**

In this course students will understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning, perform fraction and decimal operations, and understand rational numbers. Additionally, students will write, interpret, and use expressions, equations, and inequalities. In geometry, students will solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume. Statistics and probability will teach students to summarize and describe distributions, as well as understand variability.

**Big Ideas Accelerated Seventh Grade Math**

**Required: Full Year**

This mathematics course will teach students to analyze proportional relationships, perform real number operations, and use radicals and integer exponents. Students will generate equivalent expressions, connect proportional relationships and lines, and solve problems using linear equations and inequalities. In geometry, students will understand geometric relationships and similarity, as well as solve problems involving angles, surface area, and volume. Statistics and probability will teach students to analyze and compare populations and find probabilities for events.

## Science

“For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:16)

Students will explore God’s creation of the universe, life, technology, and the interaction of natural systems. Using the scientific method, with hands-on experiments, students will deepen their understanding and application of science.

**Physical Science**

**Required: Full Year**

In Physical Science students will be exploring God’s creation of the universe, life, technology, and the interaction of natural systems. Using the scientific method, with hands-on experiments, students will deepen their understanding and application of science. Students will be expected to critically analyze scientific concepts using a Biblical worldview with emphasis on the scientific process and God’s sovereign creation. Students will be challenged intellectually as they are introduced to the concept of matter as well as the states of matter known as solids, liquids, and gases, energy, thermal energy, the movement of energy and matter through waves and electromagnetic radiation, electricity and magnetism, information technologies, atoms and the periodic table, chemical reactions and the mechanics of force and motion.

## History

“We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.”

(Psalm 78:4 NIV)

### **Ancient Civilizations**

**Required: Full Year**

Students will tour the lands, peoples, and cultures of ancient civilizations in Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East and the Americas. Students will learn the history and influences of these peoples on religion and the world today. They will expand their Christian worldview as they compare ancient beliefs and religions with Christianity. Students will enrich their critical thinking skills through the use of maps, charts, primary sources, and activities.

## Fine Arts Electives

“... He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship.”

(Exodus 35:31-33 NIV)

## Performing Arts

In our performing arts programs students develop their artistic abilities through hands-on instruction. Teachers are passionate about seeing students grow in confidence and artistic skills. We encourage students to use their talents to honor and praise the Lord. Students learn to distinguish between times of worship and performance. In our programs, students also develop social skills and make lasting friendships as they work cooperatively with one another. There is something for the beginner and the seasoned performer at NCA.

Students are encouraged to use music as a form of communication in expressing their thoughts and feelings. They learn that music can be a powerful tool to communicate with God and about God. Students are encouraged to develop their skills in order to do that more effectively, and to bring honor and glory to God by doing it to the best of their abilities.

**Note: Intermediate Band, Orchestra, Choir, and Art are the four options for the Fine Arts requirements.**

### **Intermediate Band**

**Elective: Full Year**

This band is the bridge between Beginning and Advanced band. Students will learn to play a variety of musical styles, while developing technical proficiency with their instruments. The band will perform in several concerts throughout the year. Beginning Band is a prerequisite to Intermediate Band, unless given permission by the instructor.

**Intermediate Orchestra****Elective: Full Year**

This orchestra bridges from beginners to Advanced Orchestra. Students will learn to play a variety of musical styles, while developing technical proficiency with their instruments. The orchestra will perform in several concerts throughout the year. Beginning Orchestra is a prerequisite to Intermediate Orchestra, unless given permission by the instructor.

**Intermediate Choir****Elective: Full Year**

Intermediate Choir is a year-long class where we explore all aspects of vocal music through listening, singing, reading, and performing. In Intermediate Choir we give students the opportunity to learn a variety of styles and genres of choral music in two and three parts. Students learn to read and recognize rhythms and notes and to follow a choral music score. Various exercises are done to develop their range, tone quality, dynamics, diction, and subtleties of style. The Intermediate Choir will perform in several concerts throughout the year.

## Graphic Arts

Our graphic arts program inspires students to see and appreciate God's design and beauty in all creation. Each class focuses on the elements and principles of design (color, line, pattern, shape, texture, and value). Different artists, styles and techniques are introduced and discussed. Students create a variety of original works using multiple mediums.

**Art****Elective: Full Year**

Artists will express themselves with Sharpie markers, pencils, watercolors, oil pastels, watercolor pencils, and cut paper, using new and traditional art techniques. They will learn how to balance color, create a center-of-interest, draw upside-down and in 3-D, make different kinds of watercolor washes, use and mix colors to get special effects, utilize texture, repetition and value, and cut positive and negative images. Students will begin to discover the treasures inside of them, according to the Bible, and be challenged to polish their work through self-evaluation and goal setting.

## Foreign Language

“Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning.” (1 Corinthians 14:10 NIV)

With an increasingly globalized society and a culturally diverse nation, knowing a foreign language is becoming essential. Our middle school foreign language program encourages students to see the larger world around them with Biblical worldview and a heart for missions. The Bible says, “*Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations...*” Matthew 28:19. In addition to this, students who study foreign language in middle school will have a good foundation for future foreign language study in high school.

All foreign language courses at Northshore are taught with a method called TPR Storytelling which uses four consecutive steps of language acquisition: hearing, speaking, reading, and writing. Students hear and respond to new vocabulary, participate in building stories with that vocabulary, and respond to questions with answers and discussion. Songs, games, and skits are all part of the system that has fluency as its aim.

### Spanish

### Required: One Semester

Students will hear and act out stories using the curriculum *Cuéntame* by TPRS publishing and the storybook *Gabi la Viajera* and we will do *Episodio 12*. Students learn about missionaries to Spanish speaking nations. They practice the 10 important questions and answers for making Spanish-speaking friends. Students learn Spanish worship songs and Bible verses. They read stories built around new and known vocabulary and translate new stories. New vocabulary includes nouns and verbs about food, animals, cities and neighborhoods and numbers to one million. The thematic units are Money and Currency, and Family Members. They will translate some short stories and make a video of themselves having a conversation in Spanish. Assignments are posted in Blackbaud.

**Note: NCA does not give high school credits for any foreign language course. Contact your child’s high school for their policies of testing for foreign language placement. Please refer to The Washington State Board of Education for High School graduation requirements.**



## General Electives

### Drama

**Elective: Semester**

Students will explore creative ways for self-expression and the use of drama to minister to others. Students will learn philosophy, history, stage basics, and various acting techniques that enable them to perform well in front of an audience. Drama students, as well as students not in drama class, may audition for the annual middle school musical.

## Physical Health, Growth and Development Education

‘For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.’ (1 Timothy 4:8 NIV)

Teamwork, good sportsmanship, effort, and athletic skills are emphasized in our middle school physical education courses. Students participate in a variety of athletic activities to facilitate the development of motor skills, coordination, and physical fitness. Character development is an integral part of our program as well. Students are encouraged to display Christ-like attitudes, fairness, honesty, respect, and kindness to others. While students have different athletic abilities, everyone is expected to do their personal best.

### Physical Education/Health

**Required: One Semester**

**P.E.** - Each class emphasizes age-appropriate physical development and fitness, competence in useful physical skills, and enjoyment of recreation. A unique activity to middle school PE is Circuit Training which focuses on a strength and speed aspect of specific muscle groups and rotates each week. Some sports, such as soccer, flag-football, basketball, pickleball, and volleyball are taught, making PE fun, and challenging. Students also have the opportunity to learn some Tae-Kwon-Do and self-defense strategies. Students work on flexibility, muscular strength, endurance, and cardiovascular health.

**Health** – This class will provide an introductory study of ways to have a healthy lifestyle. Units covered in this class will be Nutrition, Fitness, and Exercise, Let’s talk about “success”, building strong/healthy friendships, Tell me why: Teens and their questions, and ME, Myself, and God.

### Creative Writing

**Elective: Semester**

Calling all storytellers! It is your time to shine and hone your creative writing skills. Come ready to analyze and critique various written works before creating your own masterpieces. Students will have daily writing warm-ups, vocabulary lessons, and long-term pieces to complete. Long term projects may include narratives, fairy tales, advertisements, poetry, children’s books, and plays. At the end of the course, students will be stronger and more confident writers and critical thinkers.

## **Growth and Development**

During the middle school years, students develop physically, intellectually, and spiritually. Social relationships become more emphasized as students work to figure out their role among their peers and work to find their purpose. Students receive age-appropriate instruction on the changes they will encounter as they grow including Cognitive, Social, Physical, and Emotional changes. This curriculum is designed and implemented by our growth and development team. We are distinctly different through our Biblical Integration and our Parent Partnership.

## **Spiritual Growth**

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

### **Faith in Action**

**Elective: Semester**

This class is designed to provide a time and space for students to focus on their faith in God. Time will be provided for students to gain an understanding of and grow in their faith in God and His son Jesus Christ. This class will also provide ways for students to apply their new understanding of faith through a variety of class activities.

## **Science, Technology, Engineering, Math**

“For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:16)

### **Technology Skills**

**Elective: Semester**

This semester-long class is built to set sixth graders up for success in middle school and help them build a healthy, Christ-honoring relationship with technology in our screen obsessed world. In this class students will learn how to use Blackbaud, learn some tips and tricks about emails. Learn how to take care of Chromebooks and other technology devices, and most importantly, learnt the significance of screen additions and how to be mindful in their use of technology.

### **Logic & Puzzles**

**Elective: Semester**

Do you like puzzles? Are Rubik’s Cubes a fun challenge? Come join us for a time to stretch your mind and puzzle your way through challenges! We will do all kinds of puzzles and logic games throughout this course. We will have activities like chess, word puzzles, sudoku, jigsaw puzzles, spatial and math challenges, and many more. This course will help students with logic skills as well as continue their development of a growth mindset in all areas of life, including puzzling!

### **Project Lead the Way Classes**

### **Elective: Semester**

***Flight and Space*** – Students explore the exciting world of aerospace and watch it come alive. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges.

Flight and Space uses the PLTW activity-, project-, and problem-based (APB) instructional design approach, which centers on hands-on, real-world activities, projects, and problems that help students understand how the knowledge and skills they develop in the classroom can be applied in everyday life. The APB approach scaffolds student learning through structured activities and projects that empower students to become independent in the classroom and help them build skill sets to apply to an open-ended, real-world problem. This approach provides students with unique opportunities to work collaboratively, identify problems, apply what they know, persevere through challenges, find unique solutions, and lead their own learning.

***Magic of Electrons*** - Allows students to explore electricity, the behavior and structure of atoms, and the design of sensor devices. They learn knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and examine the impact of electricity on the world around them. Students will propose designs such as a burglar alarm for an art museum.

Magic of Electrons uses the PLTW activity-, project-, and problem-based (APB) instructional design approach, which centers on hands-on, real-world activities, projects, and problems that help students understand how the knowledge and skills they develop in the classroom can be applied in everyday life. The APB approach scaffolds student learning through structured activities and projects that empower students to become independent in the classroom and help them build skill sets to apply to an open-ended, real-world problem. This approach provides students unique opportunities to work collaboratively, identify problems, apply what they know, persevere through challenges, find unique solutions, and lead their own learning.

## Academic Support Courses

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15 KJV)

Academic support courses are elective classes that provide students with a quiet supervised place to study, work on homework, and receive additional academic support. Sixth grade students either participate in Advisory Lab or Math Lab for this Elective Period Time.

### Academic Advisory or Math Lab (Math Focused)

**Elective: Semester**

These classes are offered to supplement and support a student’s regular core course. Participants are encouraged to bring specific problems and concepts for which they need help and clarification. They are allowed to work on their assignments and correct work from cumulative tests. The teacher will consult with the core teachers, review concepts recently presented in the regular class and assist students in demonstrating those concepts. The instructor will also analyze basic skill weaknesses on the part of students and give them opportunities to strengthen deficiencies. This is not a study hall, but a supervised, directed course aimed at mastery of grade-level material and skill acquisition.

***\*Students may be recommended by teachers for this class for extra support***

## Co-Curricular Activities

### Service Hours

Each quarter, our middle school students dedicate five hours of volunteer service to the community for a total of 20 for the school year. These service hours are credited toward their Bible Class grade. The type of service varies for individual students and is mostly accomplished outside of school time. Some service ideas include the following: volunteering at a nursing home, the mission, or serving at a church soup kitchen, church nursery or children’s church; assisting the elderly with yard work or household chores; volunteering at a veterinary clinic to clean pet cages; sorting clothing at World Vision and picking up trash at a public park.

### Fall Retreat

Each fall our middle school classes conduct special all-day retreats. This time away provides a unique opportunity for our students to build friendships, make new ones, and to know their teachers outside of the classroom setting. Our middle school students are challenged and inspired to seek the Lord, to know His will personally, as well as for our middle school. We will often have special guest speakers and times of praise and worship. We are passionate about sharing Jesus with our students and seeing them walk in kindness and brotherly love for one another. We are also serious about having fun! We have a blast with the numerous games and outdoor activities, such as zip-lines, high ropes course, and special indoor activities.

## **Sports**

NCA's athletic teams participate in the Cascade League of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA). Our teams compete in girls volleyball, cross country, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball and track & field. The primary purpose for our athletic program is for students to build friendships, learn to be a team player, have fun and learn skills. We are competitive, but more importantly committed to building godly character and good sportsmanship in the lives of our team players. Each year, we have novice and seasoned players, and our coaches are committed to reaching each athlete at their current level, helping them to personally improve while also contributing to the team. When a large number of students sign up for a sport, a second team may be warranted and will be determined by the coaches and athletic director, in conjunction with our sporting league. Team players in each sport make new friends, have fun, learn new skills and glorify God with their attitude, sportsmanship, and talents.

## **Musical**

Every fall, the Middle School Musical is revealed and any 6th - 8th grade students have the opportunity to audition. In addition to participating as a performer, students have the option to apply to be on Stage Crew. The process of putting together a musical includes acting, singing, dancing, working as a team, learning how to relate to others, becoming comfortable with taking risks, supporting one another, building a community of belonging, and utilizing the gifts that God has given each participant. After two and a half months of rehearsal, the cast and crew will put on multiple performances for the community to enjoy in March. Examples of some of our past musicals have included the "junior" version of *The Music Man*, *The Lion King*, *Frozen*, *Oklahoma*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Newsies*, and others.