

Northshore Christian Academy

Experience Excellence



MIDDLE SCHOOL

**7th 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

The God-Man curriculum focuses on the deity and life of Christ, as described in the Gospels. Many applications are made to other parts of Scripture, which help students develop skills for Bible reading and study. Major sections include Ministry with His Disciples, Lessons About Life and Death, and The Road to the Cross. Knowing Christ is the most vital part of any Christian’s life, so an emphasis on knowing Him personally is at the core of this class. Students will also discover what it means to have a Biblical worldview that is applied to all areas of life. Second semester students work through *Wise Up: Wisdom in Proverbs* which focuses on developing wisdom for living from the book of Proverbs. Students will reflect upon what the Lord requires of us for righteous living while applying this to their own life.

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*, 7th grade students will begin with the ***Red Scarf Girl and Narrative*** which is a highly engaging memoir of a young girl growing up in China during the cultural revolution. Students will then move to Character and Conflict by reading a ***Raisin in the Sun***, students explore how people facing hardships affect others around them. This narrative works together to provide opportunities for students to analyze characters’ responses to conflict and the author’s development of ideas over the course of a piece of fiction. Students then will learn about **Brain Science** and the remarkable survival of

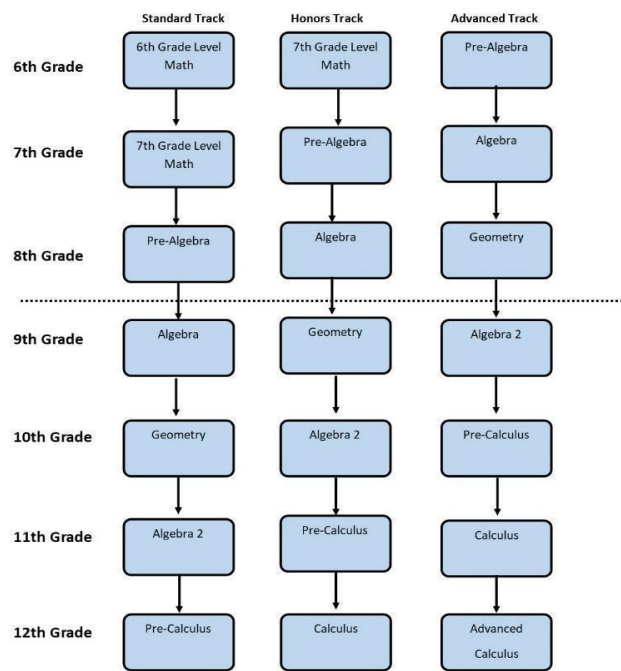
Phineas Gage and compare other information texts on the brain and how it works. The fourth unit will center around ***Poe and Poetry*** where students will need to use their analytical skills to decide what they should believe about Poe’s narrator. Students will complete the **The Frida and Diego Collection** which offers students a rich and fascinating subject on the famous artists, as they examine primary source documents and conduct independent research. The last unit of the year is **The Gold Rush Collection** where students choose from a large collection of primary and secondary sources to learn about the wide diversity of people who took part in the California Gold Rush.

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 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.

Pre-Algebra

Required: Full Year

In this course, students will learn to use fundamental mathematical functions with integers, fractions, and decimals. They will practice using order of operations to evaluate variable expressions, will solve variable equations using transformations, translate word sentences into mathematical equations, and solve word problems. Mastery of these skills are a prerequisite for Algebra 1.

Algebra I

Required: Full Year

Algebra 1 is a high school-equivalent, first-year algebra course, an essential introduction to higher math courses. This course follows a sequential approach to algebraic concepts and skills such as solving equations, working with linear and quadratic functions, solving systems, inequalities, polynomials, rational and irrational expressions, absolute value expressions, and probabilities. As a result of this course the student will become adept at working with these forms of mathematical expressions by reading and writing algebraic equations, formulas, and solutions. Students review and hone concepts taught in previous mathematics courses while working toward mastery of algebraic equations. Eighth grade students may take Algebra I for high school credit, but it is recommended that they have excellent mastery and keep high grades (B or better) before using this course to replace 9th grade Algebra.

Students placed in Advanced Math must meet the following criteria:

- Pass an entrance exam
- Maintain 80 % average or above
- Pass mastery tests
- Students will be placed in Pre-Algebra if they do not meet and maintain the standards for Algebra I

Students in this Algebra course must demonstrate high achievement and motivation, mastery of basic concepts, and strong aptitude for problem solving. There is an expectation of challenging independent work. Students are placed in this course based on teacher recommendation, MAP scores, an entrance exam and current achievement.

Science

“All things were made through Him, and without Him, nothing was made that is made” John 1:4

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.

Earth Science

Required: Full Year

The study of Earth Science focuses on the things that control and affect our planet, and while it is a fundamental belief of this church and school that the Bible presents the absolute truth regarding the Earth and its origins, students will also be exposed to scientific theories about the Earth taught in many public high schools and universities. Our study this year includes a diverse number of topics such as weather in the atmosphere, minerals and rocks in the geosphere, plate tectonics, Earth's surface systems, the distribution of natural resources, and human impacts on the environment, intelligent design, the history of the Earth, energy, atmosphere, oceans, the climate on Earth, the Earth-Sun-Moon system, the solar system, and the larger universe.

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)

World Studies

Course: Semester

The emphasis of seventh grade history begins with the Renaissance and Reformation moving toward the beginnings of the 20th century. Throughout this course we will be looking to see how God has been at work in shaping human history and the ways in which we have fallen short of God’s ideals for us. This class is where World Studies truly becomes WORLD studies as we explore Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and Australian histories.

Washington State History

Course: Semester

It is equivalent to a one-semester course of instruction in state geography, Native Americans of Washington State, exploration, the fur trade and mission eras, territorial history and on through statehood and 20th century state history. The course concludes with an exploration of Washington State government. Students will study and create maps and complete various learning activities, reports, and tests. Students who do not pass this course in middle school will need to earn credit in high school.

*** This course meets the Washington State History requirement for high school graduation.**

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.

Advanced Band

Elective: Full Year

Students will learn proper playing techniques including posture, breathing, fingerings, and embouchure. Students will learn good rehearsal procedures including rehearsal conduct, following the conductor, courtesy, and being prepared for rehearsals. They will study musical concepts and values including ensemble playing, steady beat, playing in tune, accurate articulation and note reading, and expressive musical phrasing. They will also know how to practice individually. Students will explore and become aware of historical and stylistic musical concepts as we play a variety of music. The band will perform in several concerts throughout the year. Intermediate Band is a prerequisite to Advanced Band, unless given permission by the instructor.

Advanced Orchestra

Elective: Full Year

Advanced Orchestra is where students improve their violin, viola, cello, and bass playing skills. The orchestra focuses on proper posture, left-hand agility, and right-arm bowing techniques. Students work on music reading and listening skills, instrument technique, musicality, rehearsal etiquette and procedure, musical vocabulary, rhythm, music theory and performance. The orchestra will perform in several concerts throughout the year. Intermediate Orchestra is a prerequisite to Advanced Orchestra, unless given permission by the instructor.

Advanced Choir

Elective: Full Year

Advanced Choir continues to train students interested in exploring all aspects of choral music. Students will develop their vocal skills using a variety of styles and genres of choral music. They will read and recognize rhythms and notes and follow choral music scores. Various exercises will help to develop their range, tone quality, dynamics, diction. The Advanced Choir will perform in several concerts throughout the year. Previous choral experience (1 year) or director approval required.

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 and soft pastels, watercolor pencils, and collage, using new and traditional art techniques. They will continue to 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, and utilize texture, repetition and value. Building on the principles and techniques practiced in 6th grade art, students will imitate famous artists after studying their styles. Artists will sample abstract art, impressionism, and realism and explore ways to influence their culture. Best of all, they will begin to discover more of the treasures inside of them, according to the Bible, and be challenged to polish their work through self/peer-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

Elective: Full Year

Students use the curriculum TPR Storytelling. They will read two novels: *Pobre Ana* and *Patricia Va a California*. They practice the 10 important questions and answers for making Spanish-speaking friends. Students learn worship songs and Bible verses. They will learn how to conjugate the verb "to be" and how to conjugate regular present tense verbs. They read stories built around new and known vocabulary and translate new stories. They will learn new vocabulary about illness and first aid, Spanish names of foreign countries, adjectives, writing personal descriptions, parties and celebrations and numbers to one million. They will translate some short stories and make a video of themselves having a conversation in Spanish or they will present it in front of the class (2 per quarter). All assignments are posted in Blackbaud, and they can access them and work on them from home at any time.

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: Full Year

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

Elective: Full Year

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.

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)

Biblical Greek

Elective: Full Year

This course is designed to function alongside the Biblingo app, a tool that helps students speak, read and write in biblical languages. Students will have lessons in class to go along with where they are moving in the app, written tests to measure their comprehension and understanding, and projects that involve using art and language to communicate ideas and truths from scripture and the Greek New Testament itself.

In addition to deepening students' understanding of the cultural and historical background of the New Testament, this also will help them to comprehend the OLD Testament in the form that was most available to the earliest Christians, the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Old Testament.

Benefits of this course, starting with the most basic. Studying Greek always helps English speakers develop a better understanding of their own language as many English words have Greek roots. In addition, because Greek interpretation does not rely on word order like English does for meaning, students become more adept with the basics of English grammar as well. Most importantly this course will work through a deeper understanding of our scriptures, the culture from which they emerged, and the historical process God used to deliver his word to us as it stands today, living, and active.

Discipleship

Elective: Full Year

Students in this class will develop their God-given leadership abilities as they take an active role in leading during chapel, retreats, and spiritual growth opportunities. As a class, they will dive into Scripture with one another, create and plan ways for middle school students to grow in their faith and be spiritual leaders on campus. This class acts as a ministry leadership team on campus at NCA and fostering a Christ-filled culture amongst the students.

Worship Leadership Praise Team

Elective: Full Year

Students in this class will develop their God-given musical abilities as they take an active role in leading worship during chapel. Vocalists focus on ensemble singing, microphone technique, and the art of worship leadership. Instrumentalists come into class with the ability to play guitar (electric or acoustic,) drums, electric bass, or piano. Some music theory and music appreciation is included. Our primary focus is developing a heart for worship that honors the Lord, above performing before people.

****Instructor Approval required.***

Communications, Leadership, and Life Skills

Speech and Debate

Elective: Full year

Through various confidence building strategies and activities, students hone their communication skills through speech and debate. In this course, students will work on debate skills, such as anticipating opposing points of view and presenting arguments in a mature fashion. They will also learn to write engaging speeches and perform in front of an audience. Everyone has been given special gifts from the Lord, this elective helps students develop confidence in using those gifts. Leadership is one of His gifts according to Romans 12:8. For those called to leadership, it is essential to have strong Biblical principles to facilitate leading others. Our leadership class is designed to build and equip student leaders who will make a difference in their generation. their classmates without fear. The class climate is safe and supportive, where students learn to encourage and respect one another.

Yearbook Design and Photography

Elective: Full Year

Yearbook Design and Photography: A full year elective where students will learn about creative yearbook design and the principles of photography by producing the school yearbook. They will discover techniques of page layout: such as use of white space, size of text, color schemes, taking pictures to tell a story, photoshop, and more.

Student Leadership Council (SLC)

Elective: Full Year

Leadership is an important skill that is worthy of consideration and encouragement, even at a young age. This class focuses on practicing leadership in school activities such as chapel skits, fundraisers, and socials. It also challenges students to consider civic involvement as well as spiritual disciplines that will assist them in their faith. Service projects may also be planned. Seventh and Eighth grade students are elected in the spring of the prior school year.

Intro to Business & Financial Peace

Elective: Full Year

Intro to business is an entrepreneurship class. It is a course that will help students launch and run a real business. Topics include business models and ideation, product sourcing, branding, marketing, financial management, basic accounting, sales funnels, conversion rate optimization, stewardship, tax and legal considerations.

Financial Peace Junior is a course designed to teach students about money. Students will be given the tools and practical strategies they need to be money smart. This course will cover four basic concepts: working, spending, saving, and giving. Along with topics such as: where money comes from, the value of hard work, how to save, spend, and give, debt and how to avoid it, living responsibly, and students learn to become Godly.

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)

Computer Coding

Elective: Full Year

Our students are growing up in a world where computer literacy is as essential as reading, writing, and arithmetic. We will be exploring coding with various tools to help students learn the logic and problem-solving skills needed to code. Simple drag and drop coding will be used in the beginning to help students understand the logic.

Project Lead the Way Classes

Elective: Full Year

Design & Modeling – PLTW Design and Modeling provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons. Students learn to use methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design a toy or game for a child with cerebral palsy, fabricate and test it, and make necessary modifications to optimize the design solution.

Design and Modeling 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.

Medical Detectives- In PLTW Medical Detectives, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. Throughout the unit, students discover how healthcare professionals act as medical detectives to identify, treat, and prevent illness in their patients. Students apply their knowledge of the human body systems, analyze patient symptoms, perform lab analyses of patient samples, and use other clues to come up with diagnoses.

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learning through structured activities and projects that empower students to become independent in the classroom and help them build skill sets to apply to a real-world problem.

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: Full Year

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*, and others.

Washington D.C. and New York Educational Trip

Every other year our middle school students have the opportunity to go to Washington DC and New York! In the spring, we take a week-long tour of our nation's capital, learning all about the rich Christian heritage on which our country is founded. This is a chock-full, fast-paced trip. We visit all the memorials, such as the Korean War, Vietnam War, and WWII War Memorials, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, and the Washington Monument. We tour the Smithsonian Museums and see the Ford's Theatre where President Lincoln was assassinated, as well as the Peterson House where he was treated prior to passing. We also visit Arlington National Cemetery and see the Tombs of the Unknowns. We wrap up the trip by visiting New York City and attending a Broadway show as well as visiting the 9/11 memorial. This is an amazing experience that creates life-long memories for our middle school students, as well as a deeper appreciation for the Christian heritage and sacrifices of our nation's forefathers.