

Northshore Christian Academy

Experience Excellence



MIDDLE SCHOOL

**8th 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

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15

At Northshore Christian Academy we believe that “transformed lives transform lives”. We will be taking on this banner and will be learning what it means to truly be transformed and transform others. This process of transformation begins with a faith rooted in Christ, which ignites a desire to align our hearts, minds, and attitudes with Him and His word.

Bible

Required: Full Year

At Northshore Christian Academy we believe that “transformed lives transform lives”. This year we will be taking on this banner and will be learning what it means to truly be transformed and transform others. This process of transformation begins with a faith rooted in Christ, which ignites a desire to align our hearts, minds, and attitudes with Him and His word. Students have the opportunity to choose to consciously think about the ideas we believe to be true and why. Course Objectives are:

Apologetics: How do we know what we believe is real?

Applied Faith: How should we think and live in response to our faith?

Identity in Christ: Who is God and who am I?

Biblical Literacy: What does the Bible say about...?

Service & Sharing the Gospel:

Students will be encouraged to think beyond themselves and live in a state of servant-leadership that “transforms others”. It is our goal that by the end of the year, students will be able to stand tall in defense of your faith, knowing what they believe, why they believe it, and how they are called to impact others for the kingdom of God.

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 our curriculum *Amplify*. *Amplify ELA* is designed to respond to the distinct opportunities and challenges faced by middle school students through its use of a blended digital platform. Through our English Language Arts Curriculum *Amplify*, students will 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. 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*, 8th grade students will begin with ***Perspectives & Narrative***. This unit aims to teach students to read like writers. Students closely read examples of rich, layered narrative nonfiction, analyze the techniques each author uses to make their writing resonate, and practice applying these techniques to their own narrative writing. Students will then move to ***Liberty & Equality*** unit where they look at the words of a range of creators—from poet Walt Whitman to abolitionist Frederick Douglass to President Abraham Lincoln—to see how their writing contributed to extreme shifts in social organization: a whole new concept of what it means for people to be considered “equal.” Students then will learn about **Science & Science Fiction** through reading Gris Grimly’s *Frankenstein*, a graphic (illustration) novel which pushes students to wrestle with some of the text’s central themes: the source of humanity and the root of evil. Students will write an essay in which, after arguing both sides of the question, students determine whether or not Frankenstein’s creature should ultimately be considered human. The fourth unit will center around ***Shakespeare’s Romeo & Juliet***. *Romeo and Juliet* offers a wide range of themes and to think critically about the choices Romeo and Juliet make. Students will complete ***Holocaust: Memory & Meaning*** which uses a range of primary source articles, images, and videos, as well as literary nonfiction and nonfiction, to study what made possible the atrocities of the Holocaust. Students will investigate how propaganda was generated and employed to create a political environment that ultimately corrupted a society. Lastly, students will complete The Space Race Collection. Students use the internet as they put their research and close-reading skills to the test, distinguishing between reliable sources and unreliable ones.

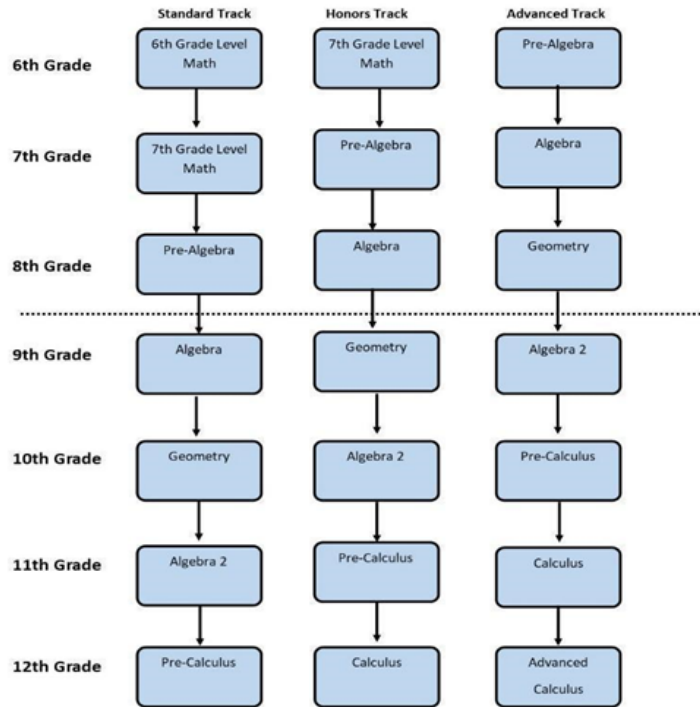
Mathematics

“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.

Please see math progression chart on the next page

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.

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. Work is required to be shown helping students to understand the value of knowing the steps to solve individual 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.

Geometry

8th Grade Enrichment: Full Year

This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. It includes the study of transformations and right triangle trigonometry. Inductive and deductive thinking skills are used in problem solving situations, and applications to the real world are stressed. It also emphasizes writing proofs to solve (prove) properties of geometric figures. Placement is based upon successful completion of Algebra 1.

Algebra 2

8th Grade Enrichment: Full Year

Algebra 2 continues and deepens concepts from first year Algebra. These include graphing quadratics, factoring complex polynomials, solving polynomials and working with sequences and series. Students will develop skills and tools for analyzing the domain and range of various kinds of functions and use correct function notation. The course also introduces abstract rules, theorems, and tests like Descartes rule of signs, the rational roots test and the vertical line test introduced in algebra 1. Algebra 2 is "intermediate algebra", designed to prepare the student for more advanced math course work like advanced algebra, math analysis, advanced trigonometry and calculus. It is offered online.

Science

"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well." Psalms 139:14

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.

Life Science

Required: Full Year

Science is our effort to understand the world God has created with the minds He gave us. Life Science, or biology, focuses on LIVING things and how they relate to their environment. As we learn more about the world around us, we become more aware of our important charge to care for God's creation. This year, students will learn much about the great variety and incredible complexity around and inside you. Students will use a biblical worldview to learn about living things in the biosphere, the cell system, the human body systems, reproduction and growth in organisms, ecosystems and the interplay of populations, communities, genes and heredity, and how natural selection can lead to a change over time in organisms.

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)

United States History

Course: Full Year

Students will immerse themselves in a full year study of United States history using *The American Republic* by BJU Press. This course covers history starting with obtaining independence for the colonies and up to the present day United States. Students will understand the role of government and the importance of understanding US History. The curriculum is instructed through a Biblical Worldview and the course of study is for students to discover their own abilities and responsibilities in life through the historical examples of people who either followed God's standards or failed accordingly. Students will view the truth of God's actions in history and therefore, enabling them to develop values and principles for living. Students will read about God's providence in the eras of US history along with continuity and change within human activity in politics, economics, religion, society, science, and the arts. Continuity and change are also visible in foreign relations, past wars, and modern foreign policy.

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.

Medical Detectives 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 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.