

Northshore Christian Academy

Experience Excellence



MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th Grade
Course Descriptions
2025-2026

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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.

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.

Academic 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

Bible

Required: Full Year

In 8th grade Bible, students will go through a unique course that will give them an overview of four worldviews and their various answers to questions about God, humanity, morality, culture, and so much more. Through its framework, students will learn the essential beliefs of Christianity and how other worldviews fail to adequately explain our reality. Throughout the class, they will develop a Christian worldview by asking and responding to life's ultimate questions, learn to logically and respectfully defend their worldview, and be challenged to begin new practices that produce a fruitful life. In the end, students will be able to see why the Christian worldview makes sense.

Each semester, our middle school students dedicate ten hours of volunteer service to the community for a total of 20 hours 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.

English Language Arts

"...God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning..." Daniel 1:17

English

Required: Full Year

In Amplify ELA, 8th-grade students will embark on a year-long journey through diverse and engaging content. They will begin with Perspectives & Narrative, where they will learn to read like writers. By closely examining rich, layered narratives, students will analyze the techniques authors use to make their writing resonate and practice applying these techniques in their narrative writing.

Next, students will explore Liberty & Equality by reading hand-selected excerpts from *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. This poignant account of Douglass's experiences as an enslaved and eventually "free" African American is a literary classic studied nationwide. After reading these excerpts, students will compare Frederick Douglass's resolve to that of the Psalmists in the Bible and will have the opportunity to write their own Psalm.

Following this, students will delve into Science & Science Fiction through Gris Grimly's graphic novel adaptation of "Frankenstein." This will challenge them to grapple with central themes such as the source of humanity and the root of evil. They will write an essay debating whether Frankenstein's creature should be considered human, presenting arguments for both sides before concluding.

In *Holocaust: Memory & Meaning*, students will utilize primary source articles, images, and videos, as well as literary fiction and nonfiction, to understand the factors that enabled the atrocities of the Holocaust. They will investigate how propaganda was generated and used to corrupt a society.

Finally, students will immerse themselves in Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, exploring its wide range of themes and critically examining the choices made by the characters.

The Amplify ELA curriculum meticulously aligns with Washington state standards and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), ensuring students' holistic skill development. Through various writing tasks, grammar instruction, critical analysis of complex texts, and engaging speaking and listening activities, students meet CCSS standards in writing, grammar, critical thinking, speaking and listening, vocabulary, and informational text and research methods. By integrating these components seamlessly into instruction, Amplify ELA prepares students for academic success and proficiency in English language arts.

Eighth Grade Honors English

Honors Course: Full Year

The Honors Eighth Grade English course is designed to provide an enriched and challenging curriculum that aligns with the Washington State Standards for English Language Arts. Through a comprehensive exploration of literature, language, and composition, students will develop advanced critical thinking skills, enhance their writing proficiency, and deepen their understanding of the English language through a biblical lens.

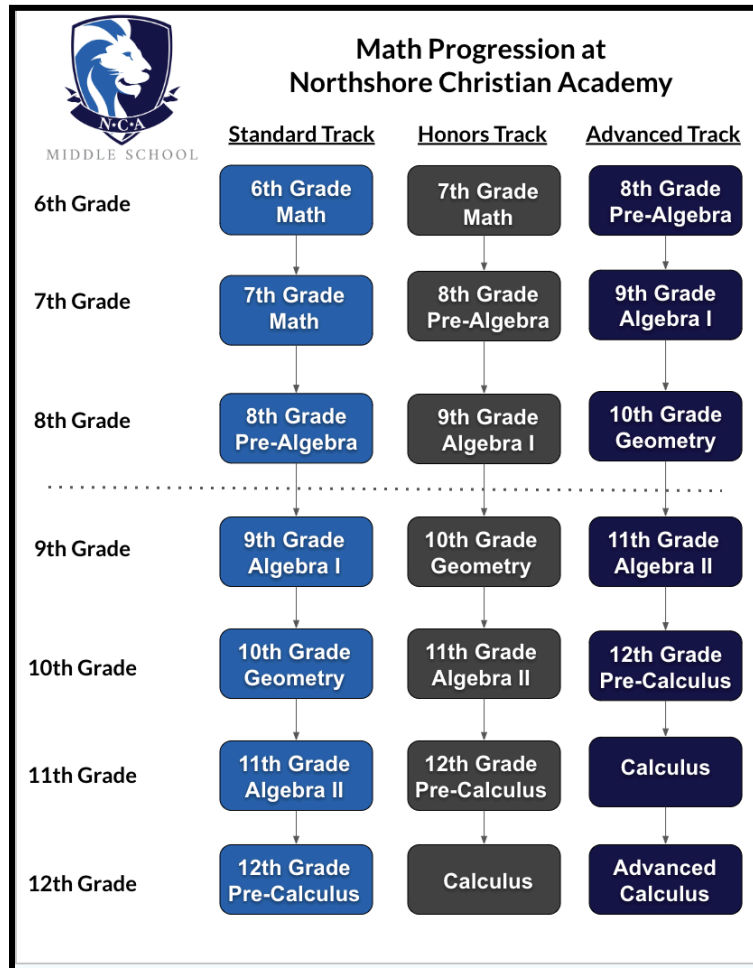
Note: Instructor Approval required.

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

Students are placed in math courses based upon teacher recommendations, placement exams, MAP scores, current achievement and motivation, and mastery of prerequisite concepts. Students in any advanced math course must maintain an 80% (B-) each semester.



Eighth Grade 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 I.

Ninth Grade Algebra I**Honors Course: Full Year**

Algebra I is a high school-equivalent, first-year algebra course, and 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, and absolute value expressions. 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. 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 for high school credit.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

Tenth Grade Geometry**Advanced Course: 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 properties of geometric figures. Placement is based upon successful completion of Algebra I. Students may take Geometry for high school credit, but it is recommended that they have excellent mastery and keep high grades (B or better) before using this course for high school credit.

Note: Instructor Approval Required.

Eleventh Grade Algebra II**Advanced Course: Full Year**

Algebra II 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 I. Algebra II is "intermediate algebra", designed to prepare the student for more advanced math course work like advanced algebra, math analysis, advanced trigonometry and calculus. Students may take Algebra II for high school credit, but it is recommended that they have excellent mastery and keep high grades (B or better) before using this course for high school credit.

Note: Instructor Approval Required. This course is an independent study. It is fully online with support from a classroom teacher.

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

United States History

Required: Full Year

Students will immerse themselves in a full year study of United States history from colonization to Industrialism of the 21st Century. Students will understand the role of government and the importance of understanding US Historical events that shape what our nation has been, is and what will be to come. The curriculum is instructed through History Alive!, a secular curriculum, but is focused on a Biblical lens 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 through comparing Scripture to historical U.S. artifacts enabling students to develop values and learn from the past. Students will use a mixture of tests, quizzes and hands-on projects to identify and annotate key themes from the text and the Bible and apply them to the U.S. government, culture, foreign policy and morals that shape this nation.

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

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 themselves. 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.

Growth and Development

Required

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 includes instruction on reproductive systems and structures. This curriculum is designed and implemented by our growth and development team. We are distinctly different through our Biblical Integration and our Parent Partnership.

Elective Courses

Faith Electives

"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

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.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

Student Leadership Class (SLC)

Elective: Semester

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 missional promotions, team building activities, leading chapel activities, making announcements, and planning spirit weeks. Student leaders help to promote a healthy middle school culture.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

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

Advanced Band

Elective: Full Year

In Advanced Band (our 7th & 8th grade band), students 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 through solo and small ensemble performance opportunities. Students will explore and become aware of historical and stylistic musical concepts as we play a variety of music. The band will perform in the Fall and Spring Concerts, as well as other opportunities throughout the year.

Note: Intermediate Band is a prerequisite to Advanced Band, unless given permission by the instructor (permission is granted if the student has taken/will take private lessons or is transferring from a different band program).

Advanced Orchestra

Elective: Full Year

Intended for 7th and 8th graders, this orchestra focuses on extending your abilities as a musician and instrumentalist. Class focuses on advanced left hand and bowing techniques, improving posture, and vastly refining your musicianship and musicality. You will learn more rhythmically and stylistically complex music literacy and listening skills, professional rehearsal etiquette and procedure, musical vocabulary, music theory, performance practice, and music history. There are several formal and informal performances and concerts throughout the year, with additional opportunities to audition for Chamber Orchestra.

Note: Intermediate Orchestra (or 2 years' experience) 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, and diction. The Advanced Choir will perform in several concerts throughout the year.

Note: Previous choral experience or instructor approval required.

Drama

Elective: Quarter

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.

S.T.E.A.M. Electives

"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: Quarter

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.

Game Design

Elective: Quarter

This intermediate course is designed to give students with computer coding experience an introduction to game design theory and practical skills while fostering creativity and critical thinking. Students will explore key concepts such as storytelling, character development, game mechanics, and level design while learning Java Script. Emphasizing collaboration and critical thinking, the course aims to cultivate students' creativity while

fostering a deeper understanding of the principles that make games engaging and enjoyable.

Note: *Computer Coding is a prerequisite to Game Design, unless given permission by the instructor.*

Web Design

Elective: Quarter

This advanced course will help students gain a foundational knowledge of website creation and be able to apply it to the planning, design, and development of their own websites. Students will learn how to create, code, and post basic HTML and CSS files to the internet. Critical thinking will be encouraged through class interactions, assignments, and projects.

Note: *Computer Coding is a prerequisite to Web Design, unless given permission by the instructor.*

Project Lead the Way: Magic of Electrons

Elective: Quarter

This course 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.

Project Lead the Way: Flight and Space

Elective: Quarter

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.

Project Lead the Way: Design and Modeling

Elective: Quarter

PLTW Design and Modeling provides students opportunities to apply the design process to solve problems creatively. 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.

Project Lead the Way: Medical Detectives

Elective: Quarter

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.

Horticulture: The Art and Science of Plants

Elective: Quarter

Students will explore God's created world through the plants and nature around us. They will gain hands-on experience learning about the makeup of a seed, plant growth requirements such as soil nutrients, plant reproduction, and an introduction to photosynthesis. We will focus on hands-on learning and use the outdoors as much as possible throughout our time together.

Art

Elective: Quarter

Our fine arts program inspires students to see and appreciate God's design and beauty in all creation. In this course, we will learn how to use all the tools an artist needs, from practical lessons in the Elements of Art (line, shape, color, value, texture, form, and space), to S.T.E.A.M. based investigations of God's Creation for inspiration. Students will gain the vocabulary to express artistically how they interact with the world through studies of different artists, styles and techniques. Artists will experiment with Sharpie markers, pencils, watercolors, oil and soft pastels, watercolors, acrylics, printmaking, and collage. They will continue to learn how to create and change color, to use space and perspective to create interest, and to create art with dimension. This course will serve as an introduction to art for both the new and experienced artist. Artists will sample abstract art, impressionism, and realism, and 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.

Yearbook Design

Elective runs First through Third Quarter

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 create future school marketing and digital designs.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

World Languages

"When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken." Acts 2:6

Spanish 1A

Elective: Semester

Spanish is an engaging, communicative course designed to help students build their language proficiency through comprehensible input. Students will listen to Spanish, read and act out stories in Spanish, share ideas, sing songs, learn Bible verses, and play games in

Spanish! Every unit has a unique cultural focus that provides a window into products, practices, and perspectives in diverse Spanish-speaking communities around the world. Topics covered include basic descriptions and introductions, holidays, action words, and school vocabulary. Based on the Somos Curriculum, this course is aligned to national standards, is communication focused, and includes authentic resources to prepare students for Spanish in high school and beyond. Students who successfully complete each level of Spanish at NCA (1A, 1B, and 1C) will be equipped to begin Spanish 2 in high school.

Spanish 1B

Elective: Semester

Spanish 1B builds on the language proficiency students developed in Spanish 1A. Students continue to act out stories in Spanish, share ideas, sing songs, learn Bible verses, and play games. Every unit has a unique cultural focus that provides a window into products, practices, and perspectives in diverse Spanish-speaking communities around the world. Based on the Somos Curriculum, this course is aligned to national standards, is communication focused, and includes authentic resources to prepare students for Spanish in high school and beyond. Students who successfully complete each level of Spanish at NCA (1A, 1B, and 1C) will be equipped to begin Spanish 2 in high school.

Note: Successful completion of Spanish 1A or equivalent is a prerequisite to Spanish 1B.

American Sign Language

Elective: Quarter

In this course students will learn how to sign basic conversations and learn about deaf culture. Students will learn how to sign the alphabet, different greetings, and many build block signs. Just as important is understanding the culture of deaf people and what it means to be deaf. Students will learn to respect and understand the deaf.

General Electives

"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

Creative Writing

Elective: Quarter

Throughout this enriching course, budding writers will embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery and creative exploration. They will immerse themselves in the rich realms of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction writing, diligently honing their craft and nurturing their distinctive voices. Drawing from both timeless traditions and contemporary innovations, they will skillfully craft evocative poetry, compelling narratives, and poignant nonfiction pieces.

Guided by the principles of collaboration and constructive critique, writers will actively participate in writer circles, feedback sessions, and engaging workshops, fostering an environment where creativity thrives and artistic growth flourishes. Through a series of dynamic hands-on activities, students will cultivate their unique writing identities, drawing inspiration from esteemed guest speakers and eagerly seizing opportunities to showcase

their talents in local writing contests. Under the expert mentorship of an industry professional and supportive peers, writers will meticulously refine their skills, joyously celebrate their achievements, and confidently unleash their boundless creativity within the vibrant tapestry of the Creative Writing elective.

Physical Education

Elective: Quarter

The Middle School Physical Education course is designed to promote physical fitness, develop motor skills, and instill the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Students will engage in a variety of activities aimed at building teamwork, improving individual fitness, and understanding the value of physical activity in everyday life. The course focuses on both team sports and individual fitness, encouraging students to develop a lifelong commitment to health and wellness.

Students will participate in a range of team sports which may include basketball, soccer, volleyball, flag football, and lacrosse. We also focus on lifetime sports and fitness which may include walking/jogging, badminton, pickleball, strength training (using bodyweight exercises), aerobic exercises, flexibility, plus core and balance exercises.

Students are graded on SPACE (Sportsmanship, Participation, Attitude, Cooperation, & Effort), Ready/Not Ready for class, and some assessments including fitness testing and quizzes.

Film Studies: A Biblical View about Movie Creation

Elective: Quarter

In film studies, students will analyze films and film history with a biblical worldview. Students will connect films to biblical principles and make notes and observations about the film industry. By the end of the course, students will be able to write and produce their own short film.

Speech and Debate

Elective: Quarter

Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to cultivate their abilities in articulating ideas persuasively, honing their critical thinking skills, and navigating complex topics with poise and clarity. By delving into the intricacies of rhetoric, argumentation, and presentation techniques, students will gain the tools necessary to communicate effectively and engage in constructive dialogue. Through practical exercises and simulated debates, they will learn to express themselves confidently while respecting differing perspectives.

Furthermore, the integration of Christian values into the curriculum will provide students with a solid ethical foundation for their communication endeavors. By embracing principles of integrity, compassion, and empathy, students will not only enhance their communication skills but also develop a deeper understanding of the importance of ethical conduct in public discourse. This holistic approach ensures that students not only excel in speech and debate but also emerge as thoughtful, compassionate communicators equipped to make a positive impact in their communities.

Kids Kingdom Business**Elective: Quarter**

A course introducing students to timeless Biblical business principles expressed in new and interesting ways. This course is designed to help students walk in their giftings and learn foundational life lessons that will serve them to grow successful lives, families and businesses. In short, we are developing Nation Builders and Earth Changers. Classes will be highly interactive with a comprehensive understanding of how a business operates and achieves its goals. It will be structured through personal stories, biographies, case studies, biblical references, humor and Holy Spirit direction. Deliverables include (but are not limited to) a full business case study to be presented the last week of the course. Come join in!

Entrepreneurship**Elective: Quarter**

Entrepreneurship class 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.

Personal Finance**Elective: Quarter**

Personal Finance 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 stewards of their finances.

Study Skills**Elective: Quarter**

This course is designed to support students with their study skills. Students will learn goal setting, organization and time management skills, reading and note-taking skills, how to manage long-term projects, and tips for test taking. Students will also learn to navigate Blackbaud, email teachers, and advocate for their own learning. All of these skills will benefit students throughout their middle and high school careers.

Academic Support

PAW Period

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow." Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10

PAW Period

PAW Period is a short class period several times a week, where students have flexibility in their schedules to get extra support from their teachers. Students can visit one of their teachers during this time for extra help to complete assignments or assessments, catch up on missing work, or use the time for studying.

Academic Support Courses

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Academic Advisory

Support Class: Quarter

This class is offered to supplement and support a student's regular core classes. The teacher will consult with the core teachers, and assist students in organization, assignment completion, and study skills. 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 supporting student success in their core classes.

Note: Students are recommended by teachers for this class for extra support.

Math Lab

Support Class: Quarter

This class is offered to supplement and support a student's regular math class. The teacher will consult with the student's math teacher, 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 mathematics and math skill acquisition.

Note: Students are recommended by teachers for this class for extra support.

Thrive Program

"And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all." 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Tutoring

Thrive Tutoring offers one-on-one intentional and personalized support for students in all academic areas, as well as executive functioning support. Tutoring provides additional time and support for concepts taught in the classroom and homework. We provide remedial instruction for gap areas in learning. Thrive tutoring is typically done before or after school. There is an additional cost.

Extracurricular Activities

After School Activities

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24

Roarin' Robotics

Northshore Christian Academy has a thriving robotics program with an award-winning team history. Known as Roarin' Robotics, our teams compete via the First LEGO League (FLL). Each team has two coaches and multiple mentors guiding the teams through Core Values development, engineering innovation project selection and presentation, and designing, building, and programming their robot for the robot game. Students work with professionals in the field of study for that season to learn more about current solutions to their selected problem. But it's not just about the competitions, our teams also give back to the community in various ways, making a real impact and showing the importance of our program.

MS Teams are selected through a rigorous interview process in May/June of the current school year for the next school year. Teams will meet on Friday afternoons and Saturdays, start practicing as early as the first week of school, and include some non-school days. Additional practice times may occur closer to the competitions. The season could extend throughout the school year, depending on how well teams do in their various competitions. The competition timeline follows: Qualifiers/December, Semi-Finals/January, State Competition/February, World Competition/April in Houston, TX, and Invitationals typically held in May, June, or July worldwide. We have had multiple teams in our history attend state competitions and Invitationals held in CA and FL. Progressing to the next competition level is by invitation, based on performance at the current competition.

Athletics

We are a preparatory school. Our goal is to guide, grow, and prepare our athletes for high school sports. This includes their Christian foundation, attitude, behavior, and work ethic, alongside their skills. Our goal is to create a safe, fun, motivating, and competitive environment where athletes feel challenged and inspired to improve their skills and develop into well rounded young men and women of God.

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 all 6th - 8th grade students have the opportunity to audition. As part of the musical cast, students will develop their skills of acting, singing, dancing, improvisation, memorization, vocal technique, character development, perseverance, working as a team, taking risks, and utilizing the gifts that God has given each participant. In addition to participating as a performer, students have the option to apply to be on Stage Crew. In this capacity, students will have the opportunity to learn about the technical aspects that go into a production. This includes managing props, set pieces, lighting, microphones, scene changes, stage managing, operating spotlight, and managing backstage. 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.

Zero Hour Musical Groups

*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!" Psalm 100:1-2*

Jazz Band I & II

These highly competitive groups have a lot of fun playing a variety of jazz and contemporary music styles. The Jazz Bands perform in our Fall and Spring concerts as well as other events throughout the school year. Jazz Band is open to all middle school students by audition and with director approval. Jazz Band I (our most advanced group) meets Mondays and Wednesdays before school, and Jazz Band II (our entry-level group) meets Tuesdays and Thursdays before school.

Chamber Orchestra I & II

These are two auditioned groups of 6th – 8th grade students who are ready for more complicated, demanding music and the challenge of performing in a more intimate setting. These small ensembles meet before school and learn to perform without a conductor, guiding and following each other. The focus is on precise intonation, coordinated ensemble playing, complimentary phrasing, and playing different styles of music. Chamber Orchestra performs in our Fall and Spring concerts as well as other off-campus events throughout the school year. ***Note: Participation in Intermediate/Advanced Orchestra is highly recommended***

but not required. Students must have at least 1 year of classroom or private lesson experience on their instrument to audition.

Una Voce

Una Voce or “One Voice” is a select group of 6th - 8th grade females. This group meets before school twice a week and participants are chosen through an audition process. These ladies sing diverse, challenging music, and perform at a variety of events throughout the school year.

Uno Mustacho

This is a select group of 6th – 8th grade males who meet twice a week before school. These young men audition at the beginning of the school year and have a great time singing and performing together. Participants perform at a variety of events throughout the school year. It is pure joy to listen and watch this brotherhood of young men sing.

Field Trips

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

Fall Retreat

Each fall our middle school attends a special all-day retreat. This time away provides a unique opportunity for our students to build friendships, make new ones, and get 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 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.

East Coast American History Trip

Every other year our 7th and 8th grade middle school students have the opportunity to go on a East Coast/American History focused trip to Washington DC, New York City, and Williamsburg, VA. Our 2026 trip also includes Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see a Biblical Musical at Sight and Sound Theater!

In the spring, we take a week-long history tour of our nation’s capital, learning all about the rich Christian heritage on which our country is founded. This trip is chock-full and fast-paced. In Washington DC we visit all the memorials, such as the Korean War, Vietnam War, & WWII War Memorials; Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, & the Washington Monument. We will 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 usually visit Arlington National Cemetery & the Tombs of the Unknowns where we have had the honor of laying a wreath on behalf of NCA. We throw in a trip to Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, the world's largest living history museum/village. In New York City we will attend 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, and a deeper appreciation for the Christian heritage and sacrifices of our nation's forefathers. Staff chaperones are provided by the school and each is assigned small student groups.