

Northshore
Christian Academy
Experience Excellence



MIDDLE SCHOOL

6th Grade
Course Descriptions
and
Extracurricular 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.

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

Walking in Truth is a unique curriculum designed to help students build foundational beliefs and values from a biblical perspective. In an age of competing worldviews, this curriculum will help middle school students formulate a biblical perspective of the world and then live accordingly. *Walking in Truth* incorporates worldview and Bible survey curricula in a way that cohesively presents and affirms the biblical truths of creation, the fall, and redemption. Specifically, sixth graders will explore Christian answers to worldview questions about God, the universe, people, truth, and right and wrong. The second half of the course will focus on a Biblical survey of The Acts and the Apostles.

Each quarter, our middle school students dedicate five 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

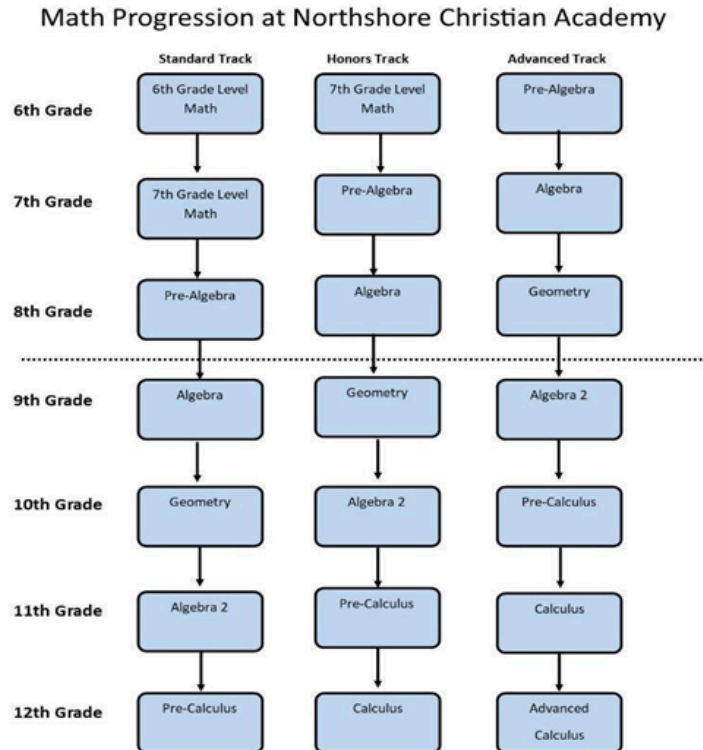
Required: Full Year

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

Mathematics

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

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 quarter.



Sixth Grade Math

Required: Full Year

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

Seventh Grade Math

Advanced Course: 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.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

Pre-Algebra

Advanced Course: 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.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

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

Ancient Civilizations

Required: Full Year

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

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

Physical Science

Required: Full Year

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

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 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

Walking with God and His People

Elective: Full Year

Walking With God is an academic course designed to study the Bible in depth, including instruction on the use of tools such as footnotes, maps, and concordances. Students learn about the Bible itself—its history and structure—as well as its overarching themes and storylines. They also learn how to use the Bible appropriately in order to understand God’s will and shape their own lives.

Students will draw connections between the Old and New Testament through their review study of Jesus’ ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension. Insights will be gained into how to share the gospel message through the examples of Peter, Paul, and others. The curriculum includes a study of Colossians and the letters sent by the apostles to the early church. This is followed by a study of the Book of Revelation and God’s promise of everlasting life with Him.

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

Intermediate Band

Elective: Full Year

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

Intermediate Orchestra

Elective: Full Year

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

Intermediate Choir

Elective: Full Year

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

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.

Art

Elective: Full Year

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. 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.

STEM 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: 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: Magic of Electrons

Elective: Full Year

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.

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

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*

Spanish

Elective: Full Year

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

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.

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.

Creative Writing

Elective: Full Year

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.

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 twice 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: Full Year

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 supporting student success in their core classes.

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

Math Lab

Support Class: Full Year

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 for 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/mentors guiding the students through the process of Core Values development as a team, project selection and presentation, and designing, building and programming their robot. Students work with professionals in the field of study for that year to learn more about current solutions. Teams also give back to the community in various ways.

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 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 Ensemble

This highly competitive group has a lot of fun playing a variety of jazz and contemporary music styles. The Jazz Ensemble performs in our Fall and Spring concerts as well as other events throughout the school year. Jazz Ensemble is open to all middle school students by audition and with director approval. This group meets two days a week before school.

Chamber Orchestra

This is an auditioned group of 6th – 8th grade students who are ready for more complicated and challenging music. This small ensemble meets before school and learns to perform without a conductor. The focus is on intonation, precision of ensemble playing, phrasing, and playing different styles of music. Chamber Orchestra performs in our Fall and Spring concerts as well as other 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.

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.

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 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.