

Northshore
Christian Academy
Experience Excellence



MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th 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

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 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, 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.

8th Grade Honors English

Advanced Course: Full Year

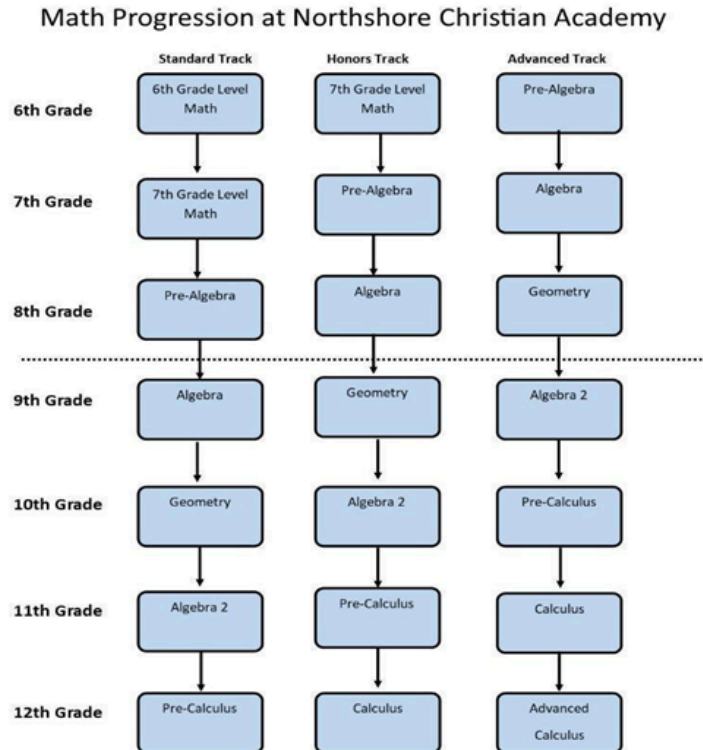
The Honors 8th Grade English course is designed to provide an enriched and challenging curriculum that aligns with the Washington State Standards for English Language Arts. Through a comprehensive exploration of literature, language, and composition, students will develop advanced critical thinking skills, 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 quarter.



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 1

Advanced Course: Full Year

Algebra 1 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 to replace 9th grade Algebra.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

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 1.

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

Algebra 2

Advanced Course: 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.

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. 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.

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 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

Gospel Foundations

Elective: Full Year

The Gospel Foundations course offers a deep exploration of the core beliefs and teachings of the Christian faith centered around the Gospel message. Students will delve into the foundational principles, historical context, and theological significance of the Gospel as presented in the Old and New Testament.

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.

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

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. **Note: 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. **Note: 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. **Note: Previous choral experience or instructor approval required.**

Guitar

Elective: Full Year

Beginning Guitar class will explore the basic fundamentals of guitar playing including guitar anatomy, tuning, basic chords, strumming patterns, reading tablature, playing simple songs, and exploring music theory concepts. The class meets twice a week and at-home practice will be an expectation. Students must provide their own standard acoustic guitar.

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: Design and Modeling

Elective: Full Year

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.

Project Lead the Way: Medical Detectives

Elective: Full Year

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.

The Medical Detectives curriculum 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.

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 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.

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.

Speech and Debate

Elective: Full Year

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.

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 stewards of their finances.

Yearbook Design and Photography

Elective: Full Year

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.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

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.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

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.

Una Voce

Una Voce or "One Voice" is a select group of 7th and 8th grade females who are also in the Advanced Choir. 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.

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.

Washington D.C. and New York Educational Trip

Every other year our 7th and 8th grade 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 will tour the Smithsonian Museums and will 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.