

GILBERT CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Serving our Lord one student at a time



2016 - 2017

Gilbert Christian Middle School Course Catalog

Revised: July 5, 2016

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

ART

Sixth-grade students receive art instruction weekly.

BIBLE

Bible is required each year of middle school.

ENGLISH

English is required each year of middle school.

FINE ARTS

A weekly strings or music appreciation class is required in Grade 6. Strings or choir is required in Grades 7 and 8.

MATHEMATICS

Math is required each year of middle school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is required each year of middle school.

SCIENCE

Science is required each year of middle school.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies is required each year of middle school.

SPANISH

Spanish is required each year of middle school.

BIBLE

Bible is required each year of middle school.

BIBLE106: BIBLE

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

This course for sixth-grade students features a Bible survey from Genesis through Revelation using the curriculum, *Bible Truths 6, Redemption - God's Grand Design*. Students will study Old and the New Testaments including people, places, and doctrines such as the Doctrines of Scripture, God, Man, Salvation, and the Church. Students also explore Bible study methods using cross referencing, Bible dictionaries, and concordances.

BIBLE107: BIBLE

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7

This course examines New Testament books of the Bible through verse-by-verse inductive study methods, lecture and class discussion. This course will yield both an understanding of the text as well as an improved ability for self-study in God's Word. The course also contains a Bible memory component. Text: books of the Bible and inductive Bible study guides.

BIBLE108 : BIBLE

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 8

This course examines New Testament books of the Bible through verse-by-verse inductive study methods, lecture and class discussion. This course will yield both an understanding of the text as well as an improved ability for self-study in God's Word. The course also contains a Bible memory component. Text: books of the Bible and inductive Bible study guides.

ENGLISH

English is required each year of middle school.

ENG106: ENGLISH

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

This course uses Shurley English curriculum and promotes student literacy through a logical, sequential, and systematic review and practice of grammar, reading, vocabulary, and writing. Writing focuses on narrative, informative, descriptive, and argument which enable students to build college-ready skills. Curriculum is delivered in print and digital format.

ENG107: ENGLISH

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7

This course takes students through the elements of literature from short stories to the novel, examining different levels of text complexity. Informative texts, including topical research and persuasive speeches, are included in the reading curriculum. Vocabulary and grammar focus on SAT preparation. Composition projects include essays, research papers, narratives, informative reports, and persuasive speeches.

ENG207: HONORS ENGLISH

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL

GRADE LEVEL: 7

This course takes students through the elements of literature from short stories to the novel, examining different levels of text complexity. Informative texts, including topical research material and persuasive speeches, are included in the reading curriculum. Vocabulary and grammar focus on sat preparation. Composition projects include essays, research papers, narratives, informative reports, and persuasive speeches. More complex reading passages and writing requirements add rigor to the honors program. Recommended students may choose between the general honors track, writing honors track, or reading honors track.

ENG108: ENGLISH
PREREQUISITES: NONE
GRADE LEVEL: 8

1 YEAR

This course takes students through the elements of literature from short stories to the novel, examining different levels of text complexity. Autobiographies, informative texts, including topical research material, and persuasive speeches are included in the reading curriculum. Vocabulary and grammar focus on SAT preparation. Composition projects include essays, research papers, narratives, informative reports, and persuasive speeches.

ENG208: HONORS ENGLISH
PREREQUISITES: INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL
GRADE LEVEL: 8

1 YEAR

This course takes students through the elements of literature from short stories to the novel, examining different levels of text complexity. Autobiographies, informative texts, including topical research material and persuasive speeches, are included in the reading curriculum. Vocabulary and grammar focus on SAT preparation. Composition projects include essays, research papers, narratives, informative reports, and persuasive speeches. More complex reading passages and writing requirements add rigor to the Honors program. Recommended students may choose between the General Honors track, Writing Honors track, or Reading Honors track.

ART

Sixth-grade students receive art instruction weekly.

ART106: ART
PREREQUISITES: NONE
GRADE LEVEL: 6

1 YEAR

In a positive and God glorifying atmosphere, the student's creative spirit and thought processes are nurtured and developed. Creative problem solving is an attitude as well as a skill that is strongly encouraged in art projects, but carries over to every subject and every challenge our students will encounter. Artistic skills are developed through creative, hands-on training in the elements of art, the study of artists and their styles, and exposure to a variety of media and methods.

FINE ARTS

A weekly strings or music appreciation class is required in 6th grade. Strings or choir is required in Grades 7th and 8th.

MUP106: MUSIC APPRECIATION
PREREQUISITES: NONE
GRADE LEVEL: 6

1 YEAR

Music Appreciation is a hands-on, interactive course designed to help students explore a variety of musical instruments and ideas. The curriculum encourages students to become educated consumers of the arts and gives them the tools they need to succeed in 7th grade performance ensembles. Students enrolled in this program also have the option of auditioning for the Gilbert Christian Schools Advanced Ensemble.

MUP107B: MEN'S CHORUS
PREREQUISITES: NONE
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

1 YEAR

Men's Chorus is a non-auditioned performing ensemble made up of 7th and 8th grade boys. Students will participate in a rigorous choral curriculum focused on music literacy, vocal technique, and presentation skills. This choir is a good fit for students who have a casual interest in singing or enjoy a moderately paced learning environment. Students in this group will be introduced to vocal performance and taught foundational musical skills. All GCS singers also learn about good rehearsal technique, study strategies, self-discipline, excellence, teamwork, and respect from a Christian worldview. No prior experience is necessary. Designated performance apparel is required, and students are required to participate in choral events throughout the academic year. All members have the option to audition for a spot in Encore (an elite group of young performers—both boys and girls—who train after school to take their singing to a more competitive level).

MUP108B: MEN'S CHORUS (ADVANCED PLACEMENT)

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8**

Men's Chorus (Advanced Placement) is a competitive performing ensemble made up of 7th and 8th grade boys. Placement is based on student motivation and level of interest rather than natural ability or experience. Students in the competitive squad will be trained at a more intense pace. This choir is a good fit for students who have a genuine interest in improving their voice or who enjoy a highly productive learning environment. Members will complete an accelerated choral curriculum designed to help them develop and use their musical gifts at church, for personal enjoyment, in their communities, or on the stage. All GCS singers learn about good rehearsal technique, study strategies, self-discipline, excellence, teamwork, and respect from a Christian worldview. No prior experience is necessary. Enrollment is based on teacher invitation and schedule availability. Designated performance apparel is required, and students are required to participate in choral events throughout the academic year. All members have the option to audition for a spot in Encore (an elite group of young performers—both boys and girls—who train after school to take their singing to a more competitive level).

MUP107G: CADENZA - WOMEN'S CHOIR

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 7**

Cadenza is a non-auditioned performing ensemble made up of 7th grade girls. Students participate in a rigorous choral curriculum focused on music literacy, vocal technique, and presentation skills. All GCS singers also learn about good rehearsal technique, study strategies, self-discipline, excellence, teamwork, and respect from a Christian worldview. No prior experience is necessary. Designated performance apparel is required, and students are required to participate in choral events throughout the academic year. All members have the option to audition for a spot in Encore (an elite group of young performers—both boys and girls—who train after school to take their singing to a more competitive level).

MUP108G: VIVACE - WOMEN'S CHOIR

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 8**

Vivace is a non-auditioned performing ensemble made up of 8th grade girls. Students participate in a rigorous choral curriculum focused on music literacy, vocal technique, and presentation skills. All GCS singers also learn about good rehearsal technique, study strategies, self-discipline, excellence, teamwork, and respect from a Christian worldview. No prior experience is necessary. Designated performance apparel is required, and students are required to participate in choral events throughout the academic year. All members have the option to audition for a spot in Encore (an elite group of young performers—both boys and girls—who train after school to take their singing to a more competitive level).

STR106: CADET ORCHESTRA - STRINGS

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 6**

The training provided in fifth-grade Orchestra continues in this course. Students receive instruction in music reading skills, production of a good tone, bowing, and left-hand techniques. Attendance at two scheduled performances is mandatory and part of the required class work, as is appropriate concert attire. Weekly practice charts and regular playing tests in class are part of the grade. This course meets twice a week for one middle school class period. Students must provide their own instrument.

STR107: INTERMEZZO ORCHESTRA- BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE STRINGS

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE**GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8****STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN INSTRUMENT FOR THIS COURSE**

Intermediate Orchestra provides students with learning and performance opportunities on violin, viola, cello and bass. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of basic skills learned in sixth grade orchestra which are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in 4 required performances per year, and smaller performance opportunities in class and around the GCS community.

STR108: ADVANCED CONCERT ORCHESTRA

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF STUDY ON CURRENT INSTRUMENT OR EVIDENCE OF ADEQUATE PREPARATION AS DETERMINED BY INSTRUCTOR

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN INSTRUMENT FOR THIS COURSE

Concert Orchestra provides students with learning and performance opportunities on violin, viola, cello and bass. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of basic skills learned in Intermezzo Orchestra which are necessary for effective instrumental music performance, focusing on preparation for HS Orchestra. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in 4 required performances per year, and smaller performance opportunities in class and around the GCS community.

MATHEMATICS

Math is required each year of middle school. Placement tests and teacher recommendations will be used to place students at appropriate levels.

MAT106: MATH

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

This course uses the Singapore approach to math through the Math in Focus curriculum. A problem-based approach which builds upon a concrete-to-pictorial-to-abstract progression of skills builds a deeper understanding of instruction and mastery of math concepts. Visualization strategies are incorporated through model drawing so students are enabled to master complex problems.

MAT107: MATH

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7

Each student in seventh grade will be placed at the appropriate level of math based on placement tests and teacher recommendations.

MAT109: PRE ALGEBRA

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: PLACEMENT FOR 7TH GRADE OR LOWER BASED ON TEACHER APPROVAL

GRADE LEVEL: 8

Each student in eighth grade will be placed at their appropriate level of math based on placement tests and teacher recommendations.

MAT210: ALGEBRA I

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: PLACEMENT IS BASED ON TEACHER APPROVAL

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

Algebra I is a course that covers topics typically treated in a first-year algebra course. Specific topics covered include: arithmetic of and evaluation of expressions involving signed numbers, exponents, roots, properties of the real numbers, absolute value, equations, or inequalities involving absolute value, scientific notation, unit conversions, solutions of equations in one unknown and solution of simultaneous equations, the algebra of polynomials and rational expressions, word problems requiring algebra for their solution, graphical solution of simultaneous equations, Pythagorean theorem, algebraic proofs, functions and functional notation, solution of quadratic equations, direction and inverse variation, and exponential growth.

MAT211 : GEOMETRY

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: MAT210 & PLACEMENT IS BASED ON TEACHER APPROVAL

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

Geometry develops geometric concepts and writing proof outlines. Students will study locus geometry and learn to develop geometric constructs and writing proof outlines. Additionally, a treatment of Euclidean geometry is presented. Students learn all the geometric facts and concepts covered in a traditional one-year geometry course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is required each year of middle school.

PPE106: LIFETIME SPORTS – BOYS AND GIRLS

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

Sixth-grade students at GCS participate in our Dynamic Physical Education Program, which provides students with a physical education experience that encourages them to develop a healthy and active lifestyle. Each lesson consists of a fitness segment which develops each child's muscular endurance, muscular strength, aerobic endurance and flexibility, and a lesson focus which leads to the development of sports skills such as those used in basketball, football, volleyball, and hockey. Students will exhibit Christ-likeness by demonstrating good character through their participation in the many team and individual sports and activities offered.

PPE107B/PPE108B: LIFETIME SPORTS - BOYS

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

Christ-centered physical education emphasizes stewardship of the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, teamwork, encouragement and leadership opportunities. Program goals include the development of a healthy, active lifestyle in order to prepare students to be lifetime exercisers who are "Fit to Serve." A basic understanding and development of fitness principles/components are integrated to form a foundation against which sports and movement-related opportunities are provided for student success. Units that promote skill development in soccer, volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, mush ball, football, stunts/pyramids and gym games are incorporated.

PPE107G/PPE108G: LIFETIME SPORTS - GIRLS

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

Christ-centered physical education emphasizes stewardship of the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, teamwork, encouragement and leadership opportunities. Program goals include the development of a healthy, active lifestyle in order to prepare students to be lifetime exercisers who are "Fit to Serve." A basic understanding and development of fitness principles/components are integrated to form a foundation against which sports and movement-related opportunities are provided for student success. Units that promote skill development in soccer, volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, mush ball, football, stunts/pyramids and gym games are incorporated.

SCIENCE

Science is required each year of middle school.

SCI106: SCIENCE

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

This course is a general lab course that focuses on a systematic introduction to Earth science. The course is wide in scope and covers such disciplines as content vocabulary, scientific principles and properties, experimentation, discovery, and focuses on understanding science from a Christian worldview.

SCI107: LIFE SCIENCE

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7

This Life Science lab course discusses such topics as taxonomy, cell function, and life cycles, genetics, biblical creationism vs. evolution, microbiology, plant biology, the animal kingdom, ecosystems, and human anatomy. A semester long Science Fair Project is required from each student. All subjects are taught from a Christian Worldview.

SCI108: PHYSICAL SCIENCE

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 8

Physical Science is an engaging introduction to the world of physics and chemistry. Physical Science provides an essential foundation for subsequent science courses, including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. It builds a foundation of basic knowledge regarding matter and measurements early on, then furnishes the student with the key principles and scientific laws of classical physics, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, sound, light, and optics. A semester long Science Fair Project is required from each student. We teach our Physical Science classes from a Christian Worldview.

HISTORY

History is required each year of middle school.

HIS106: ANCIENT CIVILIZATION

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

This course uses the Heritage Studies curriculum and is an introduction to world civilizations that is enriched through the study of primary and secondary sources and ancient and recent literature. Students study the geography, culture, government, archaeology, religion, and history of ancient peoples from Mesopotamia through the Middle Ages. The Socratic method is employed to train students in reasoning, argument, and debate. Literature focuses on studying poetry, fables, mythology, legends, and novels. All content is rich in a Christian worldview and enable students to understand the world around them.

HIS107: WORLD STUDIES

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 7

This world studies course begins with Creation and continues through the twentieth century and beyond. Lessons present a historical, geographic, and thematic survey. Additional emphasis is placed on map skills and basic geographical concepts. An additional module of BizTown through Junior Achievement will be implemented in the spring semester.

HIS108: AMERICAN HISTORY

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 8

This course traces the story of God's plan for a people from different parts of the world who turn a wilderness into the most powerful nation on earth. Students will learn what it means to be an American and understand key names, places, and dates. There is an emphasis on the core values of freedom, individualism, and equality. An additional module of finance through Junior Achievement will be implemented in the spring semester.

SPANISH

A Spanish class is required in each year of middle school.

SPA106: SPANISH

1 YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

This course introduces and/or reviews Spanish vocabulary and sentence structure so that the student is able to begin to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Throughout the study, emphasis is given on the Christian perspective of viewing other cultures,

SPA101 : SPANISH 1A
PREREQUISITES: NONE
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

1 YEAR

This course begins the development of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. At this level, the student expands his/her capacity to express himself/herself and to understand spoken and written communication. Special emphasis is placed on developing oral fluency with the acquired language. Throughout the study, emphasis is given on the Christian perspective of viewing Spanish speakers in the United States and the cultures of Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Spain.

SPA102 : SPANISH 1B
PREREQUISITES: SPANISH 1A
GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

1 YEAR

This course continues the development of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. At this level, the student expands his/her capacity to express himself/herself and to understand spoken and written communication. Special emphasis is placed on developing oral fluency with the acquired language. Throughout the study, emphasis is given on the Christian perspective of viewing the cultures of Ecuador, The Dominican Republic, Argentina, and Costa Rica. Students who successfully complete an oral and written exam during Quarter 3 will be eligible for Spanish 1B the following year.