

# EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM

By the end of 8th grade, students should be prepared to approach high-school academics with independence, maturity, and confidence.

## READING AND LITERATURE

- Analyze literature for theme, characterization, plot, conflict, symbolism, tone, and author's purpose.
- Interpret figurative language, literary devices, and vocabulary in context.
- Analyze how authors develop ideas, themes, and perspectives.
- Compare and evaluate texts, ideas, characters, and viewpoints.
- Support interpretations and conclusions with relevant textual evidence.
- Summarize, evaluate, and respond thoughtfully to increasingly complex texts.
- Develop strong independent reading and critical-analysis skills.

**Goal:** Analyze complex literature thoughtfully and support interpretations with clear reasoning and evidence.

## LANGUAGE AND WRITING

- Write well-organized essays, research papers, narratives, and persuasive compositions.
- Develop clear thesis statements, logical arguments, supporting evidence, and effective conclusions.
- Apply advanced grammar, punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure.
- Analyze and use varied sentence structures to strengthen writing.
- Conduct research, evaluate sources, organize information, and properly incorporate evidence.
- Revise and edit writing for clarity, organization, grammar, and style.
- Adapt writing for different purposes, audiences, and formats.

**Goal:** Communicate ideas clearly and effectively through mature, organized, and well-supported writing.

## MATH

- Work confidently with rational and real numbers, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios, and proportions.
- Simplify and evaluate algebraic expressions.
- Solve multi-step equations and inequalities.
- Apply algebraic reasoning to real-world and multi-step problems.
- Work with linear relationships, functions, graphs, and coordinate geometry.
- Apply concepts involving geometry, measurement, probability, statistics, and data.
- Interpret mathematical representations and communicate mathematical reasoning.
- Prepare for the increased algebraic expectations of high school mathematics.

**Goal:** Develop strong mathematical reasoning and algebraic skills while preparing for high-school-level mathematics.

## HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

- Analyze major civilizations, cultures, people, and events throughout history.
- Examine the causes, effects, and significance of historical events.
- Evaluate how geography, economics, government, resources, and culture influence societies.
- Compare political systems, cultures, and historical perspectives.
- Use maps, timelines, primary and secondary sources, and research skills.
- Support historical conclusions with relevant evidence.
- Evaluate historical events and ideas through a biblical worldview.

**Goal:** Analyze historical developments and understand how people, geography, government, and culture have shaped the world.

## Science

- Apply concepts from life, physical, earth, and environmental science.
- Analyze matter, energy, forces, motion, and physical and chemical changes.
- Explore cells, genetics, organisms, ecosystems, and biological processes.
- Examine Earth's systems, natural processes, weather, climate, and resources.
- Explore space and the relationship between Earth and the universe.
- Design and conduct investigations, analyze data, evaluate evidence, and communicate conclusions.
- Recognize God's design and order throughout creation.

**Goal:** Apply scientific knowledge, investigation, and evidence-based reasoning to understand and explain the natural world.

## BIBLE

- Develop a deeper understanding of Scripture, biblical doctrine, and Christian beliefs.
- Study biblical principles related to character, relationships, leadership, responsibility, and decision-making.
- Memorize and apply Scripture to real-life situations.
- Connect biblical truth to academics, culture, current issues, and everyday life.
- Evaluate ideas, decisions, and worldviews through the lens of Scripture.
- Articulate and respectfully defend biblical beliefs.

**Goal:** Develop a mature biblical worldview and confidently apply Scripture to academic, personal, and everyday decisions.

## Class, Homework, and Grading Expectations



### CLASSWORK & PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to arrive prepared, participate appropriately, complete assigned work, and demonstrate consistent effort. Students should take responsibility for their learning and contribute positively to the classroom environment.



### HOMEWORK

Homework is a GCS standard and will be assigned every night. Homework is intended to reinforce instruction, provide opportunities for additional practice, and develop students' independence, responsibility, and time-management skills.



### GRADING

GCS requires at least one test or quiz each week in every subject.

- **Tests: 35%**
- **Quizzes: 25%**
- **Classwork: 20%**
- **Homework: 10%**
- **Participation: 10%**

**Our goal:** To prepare students for high school by developing the academic knowledge, critical-thinking skills, independence, maturity, and biblical worldview needed to succeed in their next level of education.