



## Concordia Junior High Course Descriptions 2018-2019

### Math

#### **Math 6**

This course reinforces basic mathematical concepts. Major topics include numbers and operations, ratios, proportions and percent, geometry, measurement and data analysis and probability. Through problem solving, drill exercises and real world applications, students in this course will acquire skills necessary to prepare them for Math 7.

#### **Math Foundations**

This course provides students with an introduction to the concepts of Algebra and Geometry, while also strengthening their understanding of arithmetic concepts and procedures. It will include principles of algebra such as integers, rational numbers, rates, ratios, proportions and percents, expressions and equations, inequalities, probability, circumference, area and volume.

#### **Pre-Algebra 8**

This course serves as the bridge to Algebra by strengthening the skills necessary for the subsequent math course. Concepts included are number operations, fractions, ratios, proportions and percent, equations, inequalities, graphing and slope, and data analysis and probability.

#### **Algebra**

This course covers the fundamentals of Algebra by integrating problem solving, applications, reasoning skills, and explorations. The course involves concepts such as real numbers, equations, polynomials, functions, systems of linear equations, inequalities, quadratic functions and probability and data analysis.

#### **Geometry**

This course provides instruction in informal geometry by integrating the concepts of geometry within algebraic application. This course includes topics on properties of and work with plane and solid figures; inductive methods of reasoning and use of logic; concepts of congruence, similarity, parallelism, perpendicularity, and proportions, and rules of angle measurement in triangles

# Language Arts

## **English 6**

Curriculum: Holt McDougal Literature Grade 6

The Common Core State Standards challenge today's students to read different kinds of texts, to analyze and compare them, and to respond with explicit textual evidence. Holt McDougal is designed to make rigorous standards and challenging texts accessible to every student, and make citing textual evidence a natural part of the reading process. In Text Analysis workshops, students apply newly learned skills to excerpts of quality literature using Close Read strategies. Novels provide additional resources that inspire students to explore different worlds through reading. Students will analyze texts from different genres, historical periods, and mediums, comparing authors' purposes, styles, and effectiveness. Students must use high-level thinking and critical analysis skills as they compare and contrast selections. In writing, argumentation and expository writing are emphasized to reflect the kinds of writing most often used in today's careers and college classrooms. Research skills are also integrated into reading and writing with comprehensive research process instruction guiding students to discover the worlds they want to research.

Vocabulary instruction focuses on 4 different skill sets in vocabulary acquisition: completing the sentence, choosing the right word, synonyms and antonyms, and vocabulary in context.

## **English 7**

Curriculum: Holt McDougal Literature Grade 7

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## English 8

Curriculum: Holt McDougal Literature Grade 8

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## Science

Taught with a Biblical view of the world in which we live, and remembering throughout each lesson that God is our creator and sustainer of life and without Him the amazing world of science would be nonexistent, this science program will provide an inquiry-based science which covers life, earth, and physical sciences with technology. Each unit provides opportunities for students to experience scientific phenomena firsthand.

### Science 6

- *Understanding Weather and Climate* explores the atmospheric events and oceanic processes that dramatically impact the earth and its inhabitants.
- *Researching the Sun-Earth-Moon System* helps students understand the Sun-Earth-Moon system through the use of models, computer simulations, and outdoor investigations.
- *Exploring Planetary Systems* helps students clarify and expand their knowledge of our solar system, and Earth as a planet.
- *Exploring Plate Tectonics* not only helps students clarify what they already know about earthquakes, volcanoes, and plate tectonics, but deepens their understanding of their world and some of the powerful natural events that significantly affect it. Students will be equipped with a Biblical view as a counter to the world view.
- *Project Lead the Way, STEM Science: Design and Modeling*: Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

## Science 7

- *Investigating Digestion and Motion* explores digestive processes and organs, nutrients and vitamins, and the musculoskeletal system, all key elements of a healthy body.
- *Exploring Respiration and Circulation* explores the respiratory and circulatory systems.
- *Investigating Biodiversity and Interdependence* introduces them to the structure, function, and diversity of living things.
- *Studying the Development and Reproduction of Organisms* students study several representative organisms, the unit focuses on the life cycles and processes of two in particular—Wisconsin Fast Plants™ and the cabbage white butterfly.
- In *Microworlds*, students explore magnifiers, learning that tools like lenses and microscopes can be used to extend the sense of sight to view objects in greater detail
- *Project Lead the Way, STEM Science - 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.

## Science 8

- *Exploring the Properties of Matter*, students investigate some basic properties of matter and the use of these properties to distinguish one substance from another.
- *Experimenting with Mixtures, Compounds, and Elements*. Building on students' existing knowledge of the characteristic properties of matter, this unit explores the three basic types of matter and the chemical and physical properties that distinguish them.
- *Experimenting with Forces and Motion* allows students to investigate the nature of energy, the different forms it can take, the nature of different forces, and how those forces affect the motion of objects.
- *Working with Motors and Simple Machines* provides students the opportunity to explore forces, work, power, and efficiency; how to calculate them; and how these concepts relate to motors and simple machines.
- *Investigating Circuit Design* provides students with a hands-on introduction to electricity and circuits. By building their own circuits and using them to light bulbs, power fans, and function in other prescribed ways, students are able to explore the idea that circuits provide a way to transform electrical energy into sound, heat, light, or kinetic energy. Students also investigate how this happens, using ammeters and voltmeters to measure current and voltage.
- *Exploring the Nature of Light* introduces students to light as a form of energy by providing opportunities for students to investigate where light comes from and how it is produced; to experiment with light beams and shadow formation to determine how light travels; and to explore the phenomena of color and the electromagnetic spectrum.
- In *Discovering Electrical Systems*, students get the chance to look inside some of the electrical devices they use every day and identify the various components that they find.
- *Researching Optical Systems* invites students to apply their existing knowledge about light to explore different optical systems, such as cameras, optical fibers, lenses, mirrors, and spectrometers; how they are designed; and how they work.
- *Project Lead the Way, STEM Science - Automation and Robotics*: Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

## Social Studies

### **Social Studies 6 - Early World History**

Social Studies in 6th grade will focus on Early World History emphasizing the origin and evolution of civilizations. Units of study will include Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, China, Greece, Rome, and the early Americas. In addition, 6th grade Social Studies will emphasize the development of basic social studies skills, citizenship and literacy through the use of current event articles, works of historical fiction, map activities, art and various iPad apps.

### **Social Studies 7 - Modern American History**

In 7th grade, our focus will be on American History from 1900 through the present. For each unit, we will look at politics, economics, social reforms, foreign policy and pop culture. Our studies will generally be organized as decades and include major events such as Industrialization, World War I, the Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, Civil Rights, and Wars in the Middle East/War on Terror. Additionally, we will continue developing basic social studies skills, citizenship and literacy through use of current event articles, map activities and various iPad apps.

### **Social Studies 8 - World Geography**

8th grade Social Studies is a World Geography class focusing on physical geography, culture and demographics, government and economic systems of countries and regions around the world. As we look at different areas, we will examine issues relating to human rights, conflict, the developing world, the environment, interdependence and current events. Units will be organized into regions including North America, Latin America, Europe, Russia, Africa, Asia and the Pacific World. Additionally, we will continue developing basic social studies skills, citizenship and literacy through use of current event articles, map activities and various iPad apps.

## Physical Education & Health

### **Physical Education**

The middle school physical education program provides each student with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. Students will have opportunities to be involved in lifelong physical activities through individual sport units. The program will promote the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, friendly competition and Christian values. During the school year students will take part in the Presidential Youth Fitness Program. Students will prepare for the Presidential Youth Fitness Program throughout the year by participating in fitness activities, team games, and challenges. Students will be assessed using FITNESSGRAM during the fall and spring.

### **Health**

The health curriculum, conducted in conjunction with the physical education program is designed to help students become healthy persons who take an active role in protecting, maintaining, and improving their health. Students will learn from the following ten health content areas: nutrition, personal health and physical activity, injury prevention and safety, consumer and community health, chronic and communicable diseases, family and social health, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, environmental health, growth and development, mental and emotional health.

## Discipleship

### Discipleship 6

We will journey through the entire Bible. The class will start with God's creation story and work through the ancient prophet's message of the promised Messiah. Next, we will take a detailed look at the life of Jesus and the awesome growth of the early Christian church. Using the *One In Christ* curriculum from CPH, this class will gain a deeper understanding of God's redemptive work throughout history and how it speaks to us today. Through God's story, each student will see their story in Christ's saving work for all humanity. In addition, students will equip themselves by memorizing selected Bible passages and items from Luther's Catechism.

### Discipleship 7

Who Is God? What is the Gospel? How do we live a life of worship? These questions and many more will be explored as we use the *One in Christ* curriculum as our guide. In addition, the class will work through *Christian Character Connections* for the second semester. We will answer some deep questions like: Who Am I? Why Am I Here? In addition, this curriculum uses God's Word to tackle such topics as bullying, internet etiquette, and conflict resolution. Students will memorize selected Bible passages and items from Luther's Catechism throughout the year.

### Discipleship 8

What does the Bible have to say about the Christian life? By journeying through the New Testament and laying down a firm foundation on the life of Jesus, we will see God's act of love for all humanity in the first semester. In the second semester, the class will work on developing a Christian worldview and apply their faith in light of the *Life's Big Questions - God's Big Answers* curriculum. A few Topics include: How did we get the Bible? Does creation or evolution Explain the World? Did Jesus really exist? By taking a look at these questions, each student will begin learning how to defend their faith, which is called apologetics. In addition, students will memorize selected Bible passages and items from Luther's Catechism throughout the year.

## Fine Arts

### Jr. High Choir

Choir focuses on the development of the vocal instrument through performance of choral music. Special emphasis is placed on the introduction of sight singing and ear training exercises, and the group will perform several times throughout the year.

### Jr. High Band

This course is the introductory course for full time ensemble playing. While continued emphasis is placed on the development of the individual player, a new focus is toward the growing ability toward ensemble playing. Balance, blend, intonation, and part independence are developed through performance of select pedagogical pieces. Instruction is also given in the theory and literacy of music.

### **Jr. High Orchestra**

This ensemble will allow students to use their musical talents to perform a wide variety of music for church services, concerts, and various events throughout the year. This course transitions students from mostly individual playing to more complex ensemble pieces. Focuses include tone, tuning, independent playing and sight reading.

### **Handbells**

Handbell choir is a performance ensemble course. Throughout the year, the group will perform for concerts, churches, and various community events. A variety of music will be explored and multiple ringing techniques will be utilized. Previous experience is not necessary.

### **Jazz Band**

Jazz band is an introduction to music and styles particular to the jazz idiom. Techniques of jazz playing, including introductory improvisation, are the focus of this course. Students are asked to play in the majority of jazz styles, including big band/swing, rock, blues, ballads, Latin, and fusion.

## **Elective Studies**

### **App Creators** - Mrs. Laura Vance

Solve real problems through mobile app development. Experience computer science as a means of analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development. Explore the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.

### **Computer Science for Innovators and Makers** - Mrs. Laura Vance

Dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering to hands-on projects like improving an existing product. Learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. Discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects.

### **Cook Well-Live Better** - Mr. Tim Vogel

This class will involve student cooking, exploring healthy food choices, and discovering different cultures through food. Students will explore: where their food comes from, how to safely prepare food, how to read food labels, and how to make healthy food choices. Students will prepare snacks, appetizers, and meals with help from peers. Students will participate in a food lab project. During this project students will research foods from a foreign country and create recipes to share with the class!

### **Graphic Design** - Ms. Alex Winters

This class will be an opportunity to dive into the basics of graphics. We will be exploring tools in Photoshop, Illustrator and a few other Adobe programs. We will also be looking at the process of graphic design in the art world.

### **Growing Leaders in the Real World (Junior High Style)** - Mr. Andrew Jipp

Is everyone a leader? Are you a leader? Using Tim Elmore's *Habitudes* image driven leadership curriculum, we will explore those questions and more. His *Growing Leaders* model has been adopted by NFL teams, Universities such as Nebraska and Alabama, businesses

such as Chick-fil-A, as well as high schools throughout United States. This faith based class is based off 4 key principles:

Every student has the potential to be a leader.

Leadership cannot be separated from values.

Leadership skills must be taught.

In today's world, every student will need leadership skills.

Taking this introductory class will help you combine your God-given strengths with your passion, and start you on the road to becoming the leader that God wants you to be! In addition, this class will plan an on campus service project to lead which will be the foundation for our CSLT.

### **¡Hola! Intro to Spanish** - Mrs. Jen Abbott

Bienvenidos (welcome) to introductory Spanish! In this class, students will learn the basics including seasons, colors, and numbers, to prepare them for high school Spanish. We'll learn and practice vocabulary, beginning conversational phrases as well as study the cultures of Spanish speaking countries.

### **Mathletes** - Mrs. Joan Murray

Love to solve puzzles and problems? Love to play games? Ever dream of being an Olympian? This is your chance! This class will combine puzzle and problem solving, game playing and instruction to train you to become a Mathlete. This year we will be training for Math Olympiad and Mathcounts competitions. When you are not training for the competitions, you will be learning about mathematical topics such as Pascal's Triangle, The Golden Rectangle, Magic Squares, Platonic Solids and the Pigeonhole Principle. You will also learn to play games like Chess, Checkers, Battleship, Pente, Mastermind, Backgammon, Cribbage and various other card games.

### **Newspaper** - Ms. Erin Cernik

*What is news? What makes something newsworthy? How do I share it?*

These are all questions that will be answered in the newspaper elective! Choose this elective and you will learn the ins and outs of newspaper writing, research what's going on in the world, and on a smaller scale, at Concordia, and share the latest and greatest with your peers! You will be given the chance to share your journalistic talent in a variety of formats – through social media, weekly broadcast videos shown during chapel, and a weekly newspaper printed *by* the Jr. High *for* the Jr. High. Finally, you will have the opportunity to have your questions answered by a real reporter working in the field, and work on a variety of other news related projects, such as current events, comic strips, and movie reviews.

### **Outrageous Acts of Science** - Mr. Keaton Sturm

From social media into the classroom. We are surrounded by awesome science every single day. This class is set up to explore hands-on some of the many science demos, experiments, labs, and DIY's that catch our attention on social media that you should try at school!

### **School of Spool: DIY Sewing Creations** - Mrs. Laurel Revers

Students will learn introductory skills such as threading a needle, sewing a button, measuring, cutting and safety. Projects will include hand sewing and some machine stitched work.

Students will learn design elements, research and complete an upcycle project, engage in 'Spiritual Gifts' sewing creations, design and produce the ultimate sleepover essentials project. Some materials will need to be purchased by the students.



**Visual Art - Ms. Alex Winters**

This class will be a great way to explore several mediums including painting, ceramics, tape sculpture, wire sculpture, drawing and so much more! We will be constantly using our creativity to problem solve and learn from different artists of all different cultures. Throughout the semester, this class will take a journey through the world of art.