MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to educate and disciple all students as they seek to discover their purpose in the work of God’s Kingdom.

OUR VALUES

Kingdom-minded:
- We will work to advance the cause of Christ in our world. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- We will model and emulate Christ as we seek to disciple students. (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- We will worship God in everything that we do. (Colossians 3:17)

Student-centered:
- We believe that every student is fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 129:14)
- We believe that every decision should be made through the lens of student experience. (Matthew 18:3)
- We believe that diversity and accessibility are central to the development of Christian community. (Galatians 3:28)

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy of education is the foundation upon which our Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLO’s) are built. At the center of this philosophy are a few core beliefs:

- We believe that all students can learn and are valued as individuals created in God’s image with unique physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs and abilities.
- We believe these needs and abilities are nourished best within a safe and supportive learning environment where inspirational administrators, faculty, staff and coaches encourage and challenge students to pursue excellence.
- We believe a complete education is realized through developing the whole child in character, knowledge and skills. We desire our students to have the necessary knowledge and skills in life to succeed. However, more importantly, an SVC Warrior cultivates the virtues of honor, faith, responsibility, respect, humility, and love toward God, others and self.

This philosophy of education is expressed in our Schoolwide Learner Outcomes as Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength.
SCHOOLWIDE LEARNER OUTCOMES (SLOs)

HEART & SOUL

Character:
- Honor God through faith in Jesus Christ and follow His example
- Demonstrate personal responsibility
- Demonstrate respect, humility and love toward others

MIND

Knowledge:
- Understand and apply Biblical knowledge
- Understand and build upon educational principles (Language Arts, History, Math, and Science) in preparation for college and beyond
- Develop an appreciation for global learning and 21st century knowledge

STRENGTH

Skills:
- Effective communicators
- Complex thinkers
- Productive individuals
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLE

Bible: Applications of the Old Testament
Grade 7
2 semesters
This course focuses on how the Old Testament applies to everyday, contemporary life. Students will examine the life of Joseph and the lessons from Judges and draw conclusions about themselves and the experiences of biblical figures. Students will also learn practical methods for reading the Bible.

Bible: Letters of Paul
Grade 8
2 semesters
This course explores the New Testament through the Epistles and focuses on the letters of Paul. Students gain an understanding of how to live a more fulfilling life by following the path set forth by Jesus.

ENGLISH

English Literature & Composition
Grade 7
2 semesters
This course includes a comprehensive study of traditional grammar through drill and application in order to facilitate effective written and spoken communication. In addition, a comprehensive vocabulary curriculum is implemented on a weekly basis. Students will distinguish between and write descriptive essays, personal narratives, persuasive essays, and analytical essays. Students will read respond, analyze, and interpret a variety of literature, including; works of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Students will demonstrate their in-depth comprehension and analytical skills through written work, discussion, and oral presentations.

English Literature & Composition Honors
Grade 7
2 semesters
This course covers the material presented in English Literature & Composition in a more analytical and advanced manner. Students are challenged to read and write at a more advanced level.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH (continued...)

English Literature & Composition
Grade 8
2 semesters
This course provides instruction in the study of grammar, vocabulary, literature, and composition. Special emphasis is placed on analyzing literature and challenging the students in the academic writing process. In order to increase comprehension and support the academic writing process, the study of vocabulary and grammar will be emphasized. Literature encompasses short stories, novels, essays, and poetry, thus enhancing the student’s skills in reading comprehension, critical thinking and knowledge of literary elements.

English Literature & Composition Honors
Grade 8
2 semesters
This course includes the study of short stories, novels, poetry, informational texts, and grammar. By interpreting various texts, students will be challenged to develop analytical skills as well as an academic vocabulary for discussing the elements of story and textual interpretations. Knowledge of grammar is incorporated into writing, as students explore a variety of writing styles. Writing and analysis skills will be developed through construction and support of a multi-paragraph essay as well as experimentation with a variety of writing types.

HISTORY

World Geography
Grade 7
2 semesters
While focusing on each part of the world, students are able to recognize characteristics distinguishing regions in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Students concentrate on human-environment interaction, regions, and populations around the world.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HISTORY (continued...)

American Republic
Grade 8
2 semesters
This course will explore the history of the United States. The following topics will be covered: settlements, founding
government, wars, and the documents that have given us the freedom we enjoy. Students will examine and evaluate
major events that influenced and are continuing to influence the exploration and development of America.

American Republic Honors
Grade 8
2 semesters
In this course students will use primary sources, research, and DBQ (Document Based Questions) to reach higher-level
thinking and writing. Economics and Civics will be applied. Students are expected to complete reading before class
sessions in preparation for discussions. This course prepares students to take honors level history courses at the high
school level.

MATH

Math 7
Grade 7
2 semesters
This course includes a final review of basic operations with integers and rational numbers, and introduces proportions
and percents, writing single variable expressions, writing and solving one-step and two-step equations and inequalities,
and reinforces fundamental algebraic methods throughout. Similar figures, angle relationships, the geometry of circles,
and using formulas to determine area, surface area and volume are included the Geometry unit. Topics of statistics and
probability are introduced including random samples and populations, and experimental and theoretical probability.
MATH (continued...)

Pre-Algebra
Grades 7 & 8
2 semesters
Pre-requisite: Math 7 with minimum first and second semester grades of 70%. (Note: 7th graders must receive a teacher recommendation for placement.)
This course includes a progressive introduction and journey through concepts that will serve as the foundation for Algebra and, later, Geometry. Topics include the exploration of real numbers, exponents and scientific notation, proportional relationships, linear equations, functions, systems of equations, transformations of congruent and similar figures, angle relationships in parallel lines and triangles, the Pythagorean Theorem, and volume of 3-dimensional figures.

Algebra I
Grade 8
2 semesters
Pre-requisite: Pre-Algebra with minimum first and second semester grades of 75% or Math Department recommendation.
This course provides students an in-depth study of the real number system by means of cooperative investigations into the fundamental concepts of Algebra. Emphasis is placed on the development of multiple techniques of problem solving along with increased literacy in the structure and application of Algebraic principles. Topics of study include variables, expressions, polynomials, writing and solving linear equations and inequalities, functions and their graphs, absolute value equations and inequalities, systems of equations, factoring, quadratic functions, and statistical analysis. A four-function calculator is required for this course.

Geometry
Grade 8
2 semesters
Pre-requisite: Algebra 1 with minimum first and second semester grades of 80% or Math Department recommendation.
This course offers an in-depth analysis of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry involving two-and three-dimensional figures as related to both abstract mathematical concepts and real-world applications. Focus of study centers on the major postulates, theorems, and construction of plane geometry and area analysis, value and surface area, similarity and congruence, trigonometry, and analytical geometry. Emphasis is placed on the development of critical thinking skills pertaining to logical reasoning and argument. A non-graphing scientific calculator is required for this course.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SCIENCE

Life Science
Grade 7
2 semesters
Life Science is an introductory level course designed to enable students to explore basic biological concepts in a laboratory setting. Students focus on concepts that are shared by all living things such as cell structure, biochemical make-up, and inheritance. The course introduces all human body systems with the focus of God as our Creator. This classroom is different than a traditional class and is known as a “flipped classroom.” The flipped classroom is a pedagogical model in which the typical lecture and homework elements of a course are reversed. Short video lectures are viewed by students at home before the class session, while in-class time is devoted to exercises, projects, or discussions. Additionally, students take a field trip to the Ocean Institute. Dissections take place in the field and in the classroom.

Life Science Honors
Grade 7
2 semesters
Life Science is an introductory level course designed to enable students to explore basic biological concepts in a laboratory setting. Students focus on concepts that are shared by all living things such as cell structure, biochemical make-up, and inheritance. The course introduces all human body systems with the focus of God as our Creator. Additionally, students take a field trip to the Ocean Institute. Dissections take place in the field and in the classroom. As an honors class, this course utilizes advanced higher order thinking skills more often, in which content is explored in more depth. Students taking this course should be self-motivated and driven to excel. This course will prepare them for high school honors and AP courses. Thus, the workload is increased.

Physical Science
Grade 8
2 semesters
Physical Science offers students an engaging and thorough introduction to the world of physics and chemistry. In particular, this course explores chemical building blocks, motion, force, energy, sound, light, electricity, and magnetism. Students will develop problem solving and thinking skills such as observing, classifying, measuring, sequencing and interpreting scientific illustrations.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**SCIENCE (continued...)**

**Physical Science Honors**  
**Grade 8**  
2 semesters  
Physical Science offers students an engaging and thorough introduction to the world of physics and chemistry. In particular, this course explores chemical building blocks, motion, force, energy, sound, light, electricity, and magnetism. Students will develop problem solving and thinking skills such as observing, classifying, measuring, sequencing and interpreting scientific illustrations. As an honors class, this course utilizes advanced higher order thinking skills more often, in which content is explored in more depth. This course will prepare students for high school honors and AP courses and thus, the workload is increased.

**ELECTIVES**

**Homework Load Guide**  
Light: 0-1 hours per week  
Average: 1-2 hours per week  
Heavy: 2-4 hours per week

**COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY**

**Computer Applications**  
**Grade 7**  
1 semester  
Homework Load: Light  
This course is designed to introduce students to the basics of computing including extensive keyboarding practice and learning Google applications such as Docs, Slides and Sheets. Topic matters for the applications include career and college planning. Students gain an understanding of computer technology through hands-on exercises like coding, and they consider the role of computers in the modern world.

**Technology & Journalism**  
**Grade 8**  
1 or 2 semesters  
Homework Load: Light to Average  
This course is designed to introduce students to the technology used in the publishing industry and the skills needed to create, produce, and distribute the Junior High yearbook. These skills include graphic principles of layout and design, journalism, principles of interviewing, copy and caption writing, and the use of Adobe InDesign, Microsoft Word, and Google Drive.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE

Introduction to American Sign Language
Grade 7 & 8
1 semester
Homework Load: Average
This course is designed to introduce students to some of the basics of American Sign Language. Students will learn the alphabet, four of the fourteen number systems and approximately 300 signs used in common casual conversation. Emphasis is placed on receptive and expressive conversational skills as well as on key information relating to Deaf culture.

American Sign Language I
Grade 8
2 semesters
Homework Load: Average to Heavy
This is a high school level course designed as beginning study of American Sign Language including the manual alphabet, number systems, and 500+ essential common signs. Emphasis is placed on receptive and expressive conversational skills as well as key information relating to Deaf culture. Taking ASL I in 8th grade allows students to complete the recommended 3 levels of a language in only two years of high school.

Introduction to Spanish
Grade 7 & 8
1 semester
Homework Load: Average
This course is designed to introduce students to a foreign language and culture. It is designed to prepare students for further study of Spanish. It includes the four proficiency skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Basic vocabulary and grammatical structures are included.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE (continued...)

Spanish I
Grade 8
2 semesters
Pre-requisite: Introduction to Spanish 1 with minimum first and second semester grades of 75% or instructor approval.
Homework Load: Average to Heavy
This is a high school level course designed to introduce students to the basics of the Spanish language such as vocabulary and other grammatical structures. It also gives students an understanding of the Spanish culture. This course emphasizes the development of the four language learning skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Taking Spanish I in 8th grade allows students to complete the recommended 3 levels of a language in only two years of high school.

LIFE PREP SKILLS

Advanced Writing
Grade 7 & 8
1 semester
Homework Load: Light
This course is designed for students who wish to expand their writing skills and places emphasis on improving each student’s ability to communicate using the written word in both academic and creative writing. Students learn strategies intended to develop their confidence and effectiveness as writers. This class underscores the importance of choosing words wisely in order to communicate the writer’s message.

Design & Draft, Create & Craft
Grade 7 & 8
1 semester
Homework Load: Light
In this two-part course, students will learn the basics of sewing, using patterns, various fabrics and designs. Additionally, based on the practices of Google, students will further develop their communication, creativity and problem-solving skills through collaborative exercises related to real-world problems and practical applications.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LIFE PREP SKILLS (CONTINUED...)

Dining & Dollars
Grade 7 & 8
1 semester
Homework Load: Light
Utilizing creative recipes and cooking techniques, this course will cover the basics of menu planning, grocery shopping, food preparation, and cooking. The course also covers practical money matters including budgeting, money management, and financial planning that could prove beneficial to students as they move through high school and beyond.

Leadership Studies
Grade 8
1 semester
Homework Load: Light
This course is designed to individually empower students to become emotionally intelligent leaders. Students gain emotional intelligence through contextually discovering their unique emotional make-up, climate and landscape. They will survey the lives of current and historic leaders in order to gain a wide range of leadership perspectives. They will also learn and utilize leadership skills to influence their culture and community.

Public Speaking, Communications & Broadcasting
Grade 7 & 8
1 semester
Homework Load: Light
Students develop an understanding of the art of public speaking through learning a variety of communication techniques including individual speeches and broadcasts. Students will understand how to organize a speech, present a speech, provide feedback using appropriate language, deliver effectively, listen critically and produce a broadcast for review.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Dance
Grade 7 & 8
1 or 2 semesters
Homework Load: Light
This course provides students with the necessary fundamentals of dance technique. Students also study vocabulary, and different forms of dance and choreography. Each day consists of warm-up, stretching, conditioning, across the floor patterns, choreography and cool-down. This course aims to provide enhancement of physical fitness, self-confidence, and self-discipline. All participants are required to participate in out-of-class performances.

Physical Education/Health
Grade 7 & 8
1 or 2 semesters
Homework Load: Light
The purpose of this class is to help students build a foundation for a healthy lifestyle based in practical and biblical principles. The class deals with the integration of the physical, mental, social, and spiritual dimensions of life. The goal is to offer students an opportunity to learn how to keep themselves healthy with lifelong learning skills. The semester class is divided into a three-day/week outdoor physical education course and a two-day/week health course. All health coursework is in the form of in-class assignments. All physical education coursework is outdoors. No textbook is required. P.E. uniform is required.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Beginning Guitar
Grade 8
1 semester
Homework Load: Light
The guitar has been a long-time favored instrument in all categories of music. This course teaches students the basics of handling and playing the guitar, notation (note reading), sight-reading, improving notation, rhythm and vocalizations. Students will be expected to perform outside of class.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS (continued...)

Choir
Grade 7 & 8
2 semesters recommended; 1 semester allowed
Homework Load: Light
This course introduces students to vocal and choral techniques, sight-singing, basic theory, and different styles of music. Students will be expected to perform outside of class.

Introduction to Music: Utilizing Ukuleles
Grade 7
1 semester
Homework Load: Light
Ukulele has become extremely popular in modern and pop music. It is a wonderful instrument with which to begin in order to transition to many other instruments such as drums, guitar, and piano. This class incorporates learning the basics of handling and playing the ukulele, notation (note reading), sight-reading, improving notation, rhythm and vocalizations. SVC provides the instruments and the method book. Students will be expected to perform outside of class.

Visual Arts
Grade 7 & 8
1 or 2 semesters
Homework Load: Light
This course is designed for students to explore their individual talents through various mediums such as paint, pencil, pen, and ink, felt tip pen, charcoal pencils, watercolor, oil pastels, and a combination of the above. Students experience still life set-ups and rendering as they study composition, rules of perspective, design terms, and advertising art.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

STUDY HALL

Study Hall
Grade 7 & 8
1 or 2 semesters
Students may enroll in 1 semester of study hall to allow time to work on homework before leaving school. Students may indicate which semester they prefer; however, placement into study hall is based on space availability.

ALA Study Hall
Grade 7 & 8
1 or 2 semesters
Students participating in the ALA Program may elect to enroll in the ALA Study Hall course for additional assistance with homework and testing.