JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CURRICULUM GUIDE
2019-2020
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 School-wide 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 School-wide Learner Outcomes as Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength.
SCHOOL-WIDE 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 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

REQUIRED COURSEWORK

The level of coursework in Junior High is designed to meet and exceed state standards, and to prepare students for the rigors of high school. All core courses are year-long, and students are placed in either college-preparatory (CP) or honors (H) level classes. Honors courses involve greater rigor and a faster pace. Placement is based on academic performance, teacher recommendation and/or teacher approval. Through the Academic Learning Assistance Program (ALA), classes are offered in English and Math, and designed specifically for students needing smaller class sizes for more individualized attention. Students may also participate in and ALA Study Hall class as well as receive testing accommodations for all subjects.

7TH GRADE CORE COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIBLE</td>
<td>Applications of the Old Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY</td>
<td>World Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>Life Science: CP or H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>Math 7, Math 7 ALA or Pre-Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>Literature &amp; Composition 7: CP, ALA or H</td>
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8TH GRADE CORE COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIBLE</td>
<td>Letters of Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY</td>
<td>American Republic: CP or H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>Physical Science: CP or H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>Pre-Algebra, Pre-Algebra ALA or Algebra I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>Literature &amp; Composition 8: CP, ALA or H</td>
</tr>
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8TH GRADE CAREER PROJECT: All 8th grade students are required to complete the career project in order to graduate. This project guides students through career exploration using assessments, research, and job shadowing. This year-long project includes written, oral, and visual presentations. It allows students to investigate a career and determine if they wish to pursue this career in their future studies.

OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION

8th Grade: Washington DC, Gettysburg Battlefield, and NYC Field Trip
SVCS arranges this 9-day trip as part of the American Republic education experience. Participation is optional. Regardless of attendance, all 8th grade students are required to complete the corresponding academic assignment.

7th Grade: Enrichment Field Trip
An optional all-day field trip designed to enhance learning in the area of science, math, or the humanities is offered to all 7th grade students during the week of the 8th grade Washington DC trip.

JUNIOR HIGH GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To receive a Saddleback Valley Christian School Junior High diploma, a student must pass all 7th and 8th grade core classes with a 60% or higher, as well as successfully completing the 8th grade career project seminar class.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLE

Bible: Old Testament
Grade 7
2 semesters
This course focuses on how Old Testament applies to everyday, contemporary life and includes an in-depth study of the life of Joseph. Students will also learn practical methods for reading the Bible and, through relational advocacy, have their hearts and minds ignited so they may become joy-filled transformers of communities.

Bible: New Testament Topics
Grade 8
2 semesters
Students rotate quarterly through a series of four New Testament courses. Each course explores the New Testament and focuses on students gaining an understanding of how to live a more fulfilling life by following the path set forth by Jesus. Sample course topics include: What’s Up: Discovering the Gospel, Jesus, and Who You Really Are; Ephesians: Mission and Culture; James with a big-picture overview of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes/ A Study of Wisdom; Faith in Practice: 1st and 2nd Corinthians.

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.
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, cultures, 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.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MATH (continued...)

**Pre-Algebra**
**Grades 7 & 8**
2 semesters
Prerequisite: 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, angle relationships in parallel lines and triangles, the Pythagorean Theorem, and volume of 3-dimensional figures.

**Algebra I**
**Grade 8**
2 semesters
Prerequisite: 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.
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. Additionally, students participate in dissections within 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 participate in dissections within 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 is designed to help prepare students 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 is designed to help 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
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACADEMIC ELECTIVES

American Sign Language I
2 Semesters (Full Year)
This is a high school-level course designed as beginning study of American Sign Language (ASL), 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. Colleges require students to complete two years of a Language Other Than English (LOTE) during their high school years; however, most colleges recommend three years. Taking ASL I in 8th grade allows students to complete the recommended 3 levels of a language in only two years of high school.

Homework Load: Average to Heavy

American Sign Language Introduction
1 Semester (Spring)
This course is designed to introduce students to some of the basics of American Sign Language (ASL). Students will learn the alphabet, four of the fourteen number systems, approximately 300 signs used in common casual conversation, and key information relating to Deaf culture.

Homework Load: Average

Spanish I
2 Semesters (Full Year)
High school-level course 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. Colleges require students to complete two years of a Language Other Than English (LOTE) during their high schools years; however, most colleges recommend three years. Taking Spanish I in 8th grade allows students to complete the recommended 3 levels of a language in only two years of high school.

Homework Load: Average to Heavy

Spanish Introduction
1 semester (Spring)
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.

Homework Load: Average
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENRICHMENT ELECTIVES

Art
1 Semester or 9 week options
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, clay, 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. Students learn to analyze, interpret, and convey meaning through works of art.
Homework Load: None to Light

Brotherhood: Building Biblical Community and Identity
1 Semester (Fall Semester: 7th grade boys ~ Spring Semester: 8th grade boys)
Boys will join a classroom community dedicated to understanding their identity in Christ and building a brotherhood among classmates. In this boys-only elective, students will learn that they are valued, treasured, gifted, and called by their Creator through studying Biblical truths and growing interpersonal skills. Boys will foster a deep relationship with Christ and learn how this relationship impacts his identity, relationships with others, view of the current culture, and his own impact on her local community.
Homework Load: Light

Creative Writing
9 weeks
Students will enjoy painting with words as they journal, blog, and craft their way to good writing. They will explore the world through exciting and fun writing projects as they learn to see and experience that world in a new way.
Homework Load: None to Light

Culinary Skills
9 Weeks
Students will enjoy learning everything from food safety, recipe reading, meal planning/timing to hands-on preparation of food to eat. Students will learn knife skills, shopping plans, proper measuring and cooking techniques. And they’ll eat some yummy food. Bon Appetit!
Homework Load: Light
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENRICHMENT ELECTIVES

Dance
1 Semester
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.

*Homework Load: Light*

Guitar: Beginning
1 Semester
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 must provide their own guitar. Students will be expected to perform for their peers.

*Homework Load: Light*

Guitar: Continuing
1 Semester
This course builds on the teachings of beginning guitar and incorporates the basics of the electric guitar. Students must provide their own acoustic guitar. Electric guitars will be provided. Students will be expected to perform for their peers.

*Homework Load: Light*
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENRICHMENT ELECTIVES

Leadership Studies
1 Semester
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. Students are required to complete the application to enroll in the class.
Homework Load: Light

Life Hacks; Student Survival Skills
9 Weeks
This course teaches tips and tricks for everyday life, including personal safety, basic first-aid, team building, phone and face-to-face etiquette, service to the community, job and business success, and more.
Homework Load: Light

Money Wise Teens
9 Weeks
The course teaches practical money matters including budgeting, money management, saving, giving, and life-long financial planning that is beneficial to students as they move through high school and beyond.
Homework Load: Light

Myths and Legends
1 Semester
This class gives students an opportunity to explore the myths of the ancient Greeks, Romans, and Norse, from Hercules to Nike to Thor. They will learn how these people shared their stories through literature, art, and architecture. They will trace how they still influence our lives today through our government and our superheroes, great books and movies, and how they helped to create much of our language.
Homework Load: Light
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENRICHMENT ELECTIVES

PE/Health
9 weeks
This 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. This class is not intended for students involved with after-school sports, travel teams, or club sports.

Homework Load: None to Light

Photography
9 weeks
Want better looking photos? Designed specifically for beginner photographers, this course will walk you through the essentials of how to use your smartphone and/or DSLR camera, and all the key functions. You’ll learn photography basics including composition, flash and flash-fill, in-camera editing, shutter speed, aperture, depth of field, and ISO settings.

Homework Load: Light

Psychology for Teens
1 Semester
This course focuses on the study of human behavior. As an introduction to the field of psychology, this course includes consideration of psychological principles, terminology, major theories, careers and practical applications for teens. Special topics include personality development, problem-solving, group dynamics, and motivation.

Homework Load: Light

Sewing Basics
9 Weeks
This class covers the fundamentals of beginning sewing for the new sewer or for those desiring a refresher course on the basics. Instruction includes measuring for pattern size, pattern layout and pattern envelope reading, fabric and notion selection, pattern layout, cutting, sewing machine use, and sewing to complete the garment.

Homework Load: Light
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENRICHMENT ELECTIVES

Sisterhood: Building Biblical Community and Identity
1 Semester (Fall Semester: 7th grade girls  ~  Spring Semester: 8th grade girls)
Girls will join a classroom community dedicated to understanding their identity in Christ and building a sisterhood among classmates. In this girls-only elective, students will learn that they are valued, treasured, gifted, and called by their Creator through studying Biblical truths, growing interpersonal skills, and creating art, music, crafts, journals, and media. Girls will foster a deep relationship with Christ and learn how this relationship impacts her identity, relationships with others, view of the current culture, and her own impact on her local community.
*Homework Load: Light*

STEM Lab
1 Semester
Connect with your inner-genius with Design/STEM builds and challenges that engage and inspire! This elective includes project-based STEM activities with the following technologies: Raspberry Pi mini computer; 3D Design with TynkerCad; VEX IQ Robotic Builds; Block Style Coding; Sphero; Spark +; Parrot Drones; Cubelets; Scratch; Coding; Legos. No prior experience necessary. Flexible mindset and persistent attitude required.
*Homework Load: Light*

Ukulele Methods
1 Semester
Ukulele has become extremely popular in modern and pop music. 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 ukuleles and the method book. Students will be expected to perform for their peers.
*Homework Load: Light*

Yearbook
1 Semester
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, photography, and the use of Adobe InDesign, Microsoft Word, and Google Drive.
*Homework Load: Light to Average*
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

STUDY HALL ELECTIVES

ENROLLMENT LIMITS: Students may enroll in a total of two (2), “Study Only” Study Hall Sessions over the course of the school year. Additionally, “Enrichment” Study Hall sessions may be added to a students schedule.

Enrichment Study Hall: Genius Hour
9 weeks; enrollment limits apply
With the guidance of an instructor, this course allows students to pursue their own passions and interests (writing, art, photography, science, service, etc.), focusing on creativity, ingenuity, problem solving, and project-based learning. Students will present their projects to the class at the end of the term.

Enrichment Study Hall: Success Skills
9 weeks; enrollment limits apply
The purpose of this class is to empower students with knowledge and the application of basic “executive function” skills so they can become more successful in the areas of planning, managing, prioritizing and making decisions. These skills include the topics of planning, time-management, organization, self-control and a great deal more.

Study-Only Study Hall: ALA
9 weeks; no limit
Students participating in the ALA Program may elect to enroll in the ALA Study Hall course for additional support with homework, test preparation and organizational skills. A math and English teacher are assisting students the entire class period. Students in the ALA Program may take this study hall for up to four sessions.

Study-Only Study Hall: Math Lab
9 weeks; enrollment limits apply
Math Lab is a study hall course which provides students with assistance and supports the learning taking place in their math class. Students need to be eager to learn and grow mathematically to benefit from the course. This course is offered to students enrolled in Math 7, Pre-Algebra, and Algebra 1.

Study-Only Study Hall: Standard
9 weeks; enrollment limits apply
The purpose of study hall to allow students time to work on homework before leaving school.

Study Only Study Hall: International English Lab
9 weeks; no limit
Students participating in the International Program may elect to enroll in the this course for additional assistance with homework in all subjects, as well as with papers and test preparation. Students in the International Program may take this Study Hall up to 4 sessions.