

2018-2019

# Middle School

## Course Descriptions



KINGSWAY CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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## Fine Arts

*"It is good to praise the LORD and make music to Your name, O Most High." (Psalm 92:1, NIV)*

*"He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver, and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship." (Exodus 35:31-33, NIV)*

### The Performing Arts:

In our performing arts programs, students develop a wide variety of skills including creativity, problem solving, critical thinking, communications, self-direction, initiative, and collaboration. All of these skills align with twenty-first century skills, which are needed by every student in order to be successful in an increasingly complex and technologically driven world. In keeping with a Christian worldview, we acknowledge that God is the audience for all performances; therefore, we work to develop excellence in our presentation of all styles of music as an offering of worship and to bring Him glory. We are passionate about helping our students grow in confidence and artistic skill.

### Beginning Band [grade 5]

Elective: All Year (exploratory track)

Fifth grade band is a performance based yearlong class that teaches students the beginnings of how to play an instrument and lays the foundation for future years in band. The basics of proper posture, breathing, intonation, tone quality, and expression are all introduced and reinforced throughout the year. Students will learn good rehearsal procedures including rehearsal conduct, following the conductor, courtesy, and being prepared for rehearsals. In addition, they will study musical concepts and values including ensemble playing, steady beat, playing in tune, accurate articulation and note reading, and expressive musical phrasing. Students work throughout the year on a variety of music, exposing them to different genres, styles, and cultures. Basic music theory and music history are also emphasized throughout the year. Even at this exploratory level, students are not only achieving state standards for band music, but they are also reaching the highest level of synthesis and application of information with their various performances.

Required Performances: Christmas Concert, ISSMA Organizational Contest, Fine Arts Festival, 8th Grade Graduation

Optional Performance Opportunities: Solo and Ensemble Contest

### Band Sectionals [grade 5]

Elective: All Year

Pre-requisite(s): Registered in Beginning Band

Fifth grade band sectionals will take place during the day throughout the year. The purpose of a sectional is to work with the students in smaller groups of like instruments. A sectional gives the students the opportunity to receive more individualized instruction on their instruments. In addition, it will be a time where "how to practice" is explained and reinforced.

### **Intermediate Band [grade 6]**

Elective: All Year

Pre-requisite(s): None

Sixth grade band is a performance based yearlong class that builds on the basics taught in fifth Grade Band and prepares students for success in future bands. Students will reinforce good rehearsal procedures including rehearsal conduct, following the conductor, courtesy, and being prepared for rehearsals. In addition, they will study musical concepts and values including ensemble playing, steady beat, playing in tune, accurate articulation and note reading, and expressive musical phrasing. They will also learn how to practice individually. Students will explore and become aware of historical and stylistic musical concepts as we play a variety of music. While playing a variety of music, students will be developing technical proficiency on their instruments. Basic music theory and music history are emphasized throughout the year. Development at this level includes self-assessment, interpretation of genres and contrasting styles of music, more independent sight-reading, and more complex and abstract thinking and response in musical performance. This demonstrates development at the second and third levels of Webb's Depths of Knowledge.

Required Performances: Veteran's Day Chapel, Christmas Concert, Solo and Ensemble Contest, ISSMA Organizational Contest, Fine Arts Festival, 8th Grade Graduation

### **Advanced Band [grades 7-8]**

Elective: All Year

Pre-requisite(s): None

Seventh/Eighth grade band is a performance based, yearlong class that builds on the skills learned in sixth grade band. Students will reinforce good rehearsal procedures including rehearsal conduct, following the conductor, courtesy, and being prepared for rehearsals. They will continue to study musical concepts and values including ensemble playing, steady beat, playing in tune, accurate articulation and note reading, and expressive musical phrasing, as well as, how to practice individually. As students explore and become aware of historical and stylistic musical concepts, they also learn to play a variety of music in addition to developing technical proficiency on their instruments. Basic music theory and music history are emphasized throughout the year. Development at this level includes self-assessment, interpretation of genres and contrasting styles of music, more independent sight-reading, and more complex and abstract thinking and response. This demonstrates advanced development at the second and third levels of Webb's Depths of Knowledge. This elective is now open to choir students.

Required Performances: Veteran's Day Chapel, Christmas Concert, ISSMA Organizational Contest, Fine Arts Festival, 8th Grade Graduation. Optional Performance Opportunities: Solo and Ensemble Contest

### **Pep Band [grades 7-8]**

Elective: 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Only

Pre-requisite(s): Enrolled in 7/8th band

Pep Band is a performance group that will focus on playing upbeat music for sporting events. We will mainly perform at basketball games, but there may be opportunities to play at other events as well. Performances are after school at about 12 sporting events. The performances will continue into 2nd semester after the class is done. Required performances: Select sporting events

### Percussion Band [grades 7-8]

Elective: 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Only

Pre-requisite(s): None

Percussion Band is a performance group that will teach students how to play in a large percussion ensemble. We will learn the basics of percussion reinforce skills already learned and learn new skills to use on the many different percussion instruments. Students will be challenged to work hard to learn new skills as they work together in a group. Reading percussion notation and counting will be worked on daily. There is no extra practice time required outside of class. Students will need a pair of drumsticks. Because this group places emphasis on creativity, improvisation, and independent performance, it develops percussion at the highest levels of Webb's Depth of Knowledge.

Required performances: Fine Arts Festival

### Choir [grade 5]

Elective: All Year (exploratory track)

Fifth grade choir is a performance based yearlong class that explores the basics of good vocal production through proper posture, breathing, vowel formation, intonation, tone quality, and expression. Students at this level work to secure accurate pitch matching and unison sound before moving into two-part harmony. We will explore a variety of musical styles and other cultures through language pieces. Basic theory and sight-reading are emphasized daily. Even at this exploratory level, students are not only achieving state standards for choral music, but they are also reaching the highest level of synthesis and application of information with their independent performance for solo and ensemble contest.

Required Performances: Veteran's Day Chapel, Christmas Concert, Solo and Ensemble Contest (ensemble only), Fine Arts Festival

Optional Performance Opportunities: Solo for Contest (piano or voice), Winter Recital

### Choir [grade 6]

Elective: All Year

Pre-requisite(s): None

Sixth grade choir is a performance based yearlong class that builds on the basics of good vocal production through proper posture, breathing, vowel formation, intonation, tone quality, and expression. Students at this level work to continue to secure accurate pitch matching, consistent two-part harmony, and beginning three-part harmony in preparation for more advanced singing at the seventh and eighth grade level. We will explore a variety of musical styles and other cultures through language pieces. Basic theory and sight-reading are emphasized daily. Development at this level includes self-assessment, interpretation of genres and contrasting styles of music, more independent sight-reading, and more complex and abstract thinking and response in musical performance with more developed harmony. This demonstrates development at the second and third levels of Webb's Depths of Knowledge.

Required Performances: Veteran's Day Chapel, Christmas Concert, ISSMA Organizational Contest, Fine Arts Festival. Optional Performance Opportunities: Solo and Ensemble, Winter Recital

## Choir [grade 7-8]

Elective: All Year

Pre-requisite(s): None

Seventh/Eighth grade choir is a performance based yearlong class that builds on the basics of good vocal production through proper posture, breathing, vowel formation, intonation, tone quality, and expression. Students at this level develop advanced three part harmony. They are challenged by repertoire that continues to be varied in style and language, and requires more complex harmonic and rhythmic patterning. This group participates at the highest level possible for middle school contests. Basic theory and sight-reading are emphasized daily. Development at this level includes self-assessment, interpretation of genres and contrasting styles of music, more independent sight-reading, and more complex and abstract thinking and response in musical performance with more developed harmony. This demonstrates advanced development at the second and third levels of Webb's Depths of Knowledge. This elective is now open to band students.

Required Performances: Veteran's Day Chapel, Christmas Concert, ISSMA Organizational Contest, Fine Arts Festival and 8th Grade Graduation.

Optional Performance Opportunities: Solo and Ensemble, Winter Recital, Victory Field National Anthem

## Show/Swing Choir [grade 7-8]

Elective: 1st Semester only

Pre-requisite(s): Enrollment in 7/8 Grade Choir or Band

Show/Swing choir is a performance based first semester class that widens their experiences in regular choir class. All swing choir students must be enrolled in seventh/eighth grade choir or band as their first elective. This group will explore beginning jazz and swing style repertoire, as well as some popular and Broadway genre repertoire. Small ensemble and solo work will be incorporated into rehearsal time. Students will continue to sing two and three-part harmony at this level. Because this group places emphasis on creativity, improvisation, and independent performance, it develops singers at the highest levels of Webb's Depth of Knowledge. Performances: TBD

Optional Performance Opportunities: Outside venues as available for Christmas Performance

Required Uniform Fee: \$15 (This covers cleaning and upkeep of Swing Choir Dresses and earrings; Ties/Shirts)

## Graphic Arts:

Our graphic arts program inspires students to see and appreciate God's design and beauty in all creation. Students will have the opportunity to experience a Discipline-Based approach to art. We will study art history, art criticism, aesthetics, and art production. Students will be able to work with various mediums and techniques, such as drawing, painting, clay, graphic design, printmaking, and sculpture.

## Art 5

Required: 1 Semester (exploratory track)

In this exploratory class, students will have the opportunity to complete 4 projects using a variety of subject matters, techniques and mediums. Students will have the chance to experience a Discipline-Based approach to art. We will study art history, art criticism, aesthetics, and art production. We will begin with clay from the



Pueblo Native Americans and then to Andy Warhol prints. Students will explore painting from the Aborigines from Australia and finally ending the quarter with a Mycenaean metal plaque.

## Art 6

Elective: 1 Semester

Pre-Requisite(s): None

In this course, students will have the opportunity to experience various styles and mediums in art. We will be painting, using clay, creating sculptures, drawing, printmaking, and even working with fabric! We will also explore famous artists and styles throughout history such as: Henri Matisse, MC Escher and Claes Oldenburgh. We will even create projects inspired by ancient Japan and India. Above all, students will be challenged to set goals, use their time wisely; self-evaluate, and try new things!

## Art 7/8

Elective: 1 Semester

Pre-Requisite(s): None

In this advanced course, students will have the opportunity to experience various styles and mediums in art. We will continue to explore our artistic qualities through painting, using clay, creating sculptures, drawing, photography, printmaking, and even working with fabric! We will also explore famous artists and styles throughout history through our art history research project, and shoe painting. We will even create projects inspired by ancient China and Renaissance Germany. Above all, students will be challenged to set goals, use their time wisely; self-evaluate, and try new things!

## Printmaking

Elective: 1 Semester

Pre-Requisite(s): At least one semester of Art 7/8

In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore the art form of printmaking. We will be creating various projects over the course of a semester that involves the following: printing using relief, intaglio, silkscreen, and everyday objects. Students will learn how to create surprising compositions with a few tools and techniques. Students taking this course are required to have taken at least 1 semester of Art 7/8.

## Culinary Arts:

Our culinary arts program inspires students to see and appreciate God's design and beauty in all creation. Students will have the opportunity to experience a Discipline-Based approach to the kitchen. This course introduces the basic principles of sanitation and safety relative to the hospitality industry.

## Culinary Class

Elective: 1 Semester

In this class, students will have the opportunity to come explore the basics of cooking. In addition to snack and meal preparation techniques, students will learn proper food handling, kitchen safety skills, and proper dining etiquette. Students will also enjoy guest speakers who will share about careers and other related interests to the culinary arts. Don't forget to bring your appetite to class!

Note: There is a fee associated with this course and there is limited space.

## Bible

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16, NIV)*

The primary goal of our Bible courses is to change the heart of our students as they make the Word of God more meaningful to their personal lives. We desire our youth to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. We endeavor to develop that relationship by equipping students with knowledge and application of the Word of God. The students are challenged to go beyond factual knowledge of the Scriptures. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of our professional educators, we hope to see understanding progress to wisdom. Disciplines of prayer, Bible memory work, and practical lessons, are intentional to plant the seeds needed and cultivate the hearts and minds to grow in knowledge, develop understanding, and mature to a deeper faith in Jesus Christ.

### Bible 5

Required: All Year

Kingsway's fifth grade Bible curriculum published by Positive Action is entitled Winning the Race. This is a thematic study of the Bible that helps to focus our students on spiritual principals through life application. Studies are drawn from Old and New Testament characters, and the life of Jesus Christ. In order to win the race of life, students discover that a personal relationship with the Lord is foundational. From there, students build on that foundation by studying and applying the Bible for themselves. Through multiple, strategic methods of instruction, all students experience a comprehension that transforms knowledge into increased critical thinking and active use of what the living Word of God produces.

### Bible 6

Required: All Year

Kingsway's sixth grade Bible curriculum published by Positive Action is entitled Route 66-Travel Through the Bible. Students will survey Biblical truth through a study of Scriptures from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation. The survey begins with the inspiration and authenticity of the scriptures, moving to the beginning of man's story in Genesis, delving into how God interacts with man's story through the Old and New Testaments, and ends with the eternal hope found in the book of Revelation. Through multiple, strategic methods of instruction, all students experience a comprehension that transforms knowledge into increased critical thinking and active use of what the living Word of God produces.

### Bible 7

Required: All Year

Kingsway's 7th Grade Bible curriculum focuses on continued exposure to and building upon of students' foundational knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ, our Cornerstone. Throughout the year, students will analyze basic Christian beliefs and will better understand why Christians believe what they believe. This will be accomplished through a study of not only God's Word, but Paul E. Little's books "Know What You Believe" and "Know Why You Believe." In addition to understanding the "what and why" of their faith,

students will examine the progression of the History of the Church. Last, students will develop methods for understanding how to read, understand and interpret Scripture.

## **Bible 8**

Required: All Year

Kingsway's 8th Grade Bible curriculum focuses on moving students out of just knowing what they believe and why and helps put their faith into action. Students will spend time analyzing various worldviews and will better understand how they challenge the Christian worldview. Students will be exposed to apologetics and will develop methods for dismantling arguments which oppose or demean Christ. Students will understand the importance of sharing their faith and will create multiple ways in which to accomplish such sharing of their faith. One resource used for this purpose is Paul E. Little's book, "How to Give Away Your Faith." To help encourage students to put their faith into action, students will examine lives of various missionaries and martyrs. Students will also better understand spiritual disciplines such as Bible reading, Scripture memorization, fasting, etc.

## **History/Social Studies**

*"We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done."*  
(Psalm 78:4, NIV)

Our middle school history and social studies program provides students with an overview and understanding of major historical world and national events. Students see the hand of God throughout the course of history and in the creation of geographical features. Our students are challenged with higher-level thinking: analyzing, evaluating and synthesizing historical facts and information, and history's legacy today.

## **History 5**

Required: All Year

This is a study of the United States, beginning with how the U.S. was first established through the building of a new nation after the American Revolution. Students will also learn the geography of the United States by learning the different regions by which the country is divided, major mountain ranges, rivers, and lakes, and the location of the states and the capitals of each state. Additionally, students will learn all of the Presidents of the United States of America.

## **History 6**

Required: All Year

For our sixth-grade year of History, we will be studying the Western World, which specifically covers the continents of Europe, North America, and South America. Together we will study the history, geography, governments, and cultures of most countries within these three continents. Topics studied will include ancient history to the current modern history of most countries/regions.

## History 7

Required: All Year

For our seventh-grade year of History, we will be studying the Eastern World, which specifically covers the continents of Asia and Africa. Together we will study the history, geography, governments, and cultures of most Asian and African countries! Topics studied will include ancient History to the current modern history of most countries/regions. We will also try to understand a country's culture, and how it differs from ours. Here are some highlights of the year that we will study:

Ancient Egypt	Partition of Africa	North Africa
Mongol Conquest	Nationalism in Africa	West Africa
Judaism	India	Central Africa
Christianity	China	East Africa
Birth of Islam	World War II: Global Conflict	South Africa
Mesopotamia	Japan	

## History 8

Required: All Year

This is an intensive introductory course into the history of the United States. We will cover the History of the United States from the early 1700's to 2000. A wide range of topics will be covered, with emphasis placed upon the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the United States of America. Our main class goal is to foster critical thinking into why events happened and how these events influenced the United States. Through reading, research, engaging discussions, and various creative projects, students master historical facts and see history from a Christian worldview.

## We the People

Optional Course in place of History 8

The We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Program promotes civic competence and responsibility among the students. The curriculum is an innovative course of instruction on the history and principles of the United States constitutional democratic republic. Competitions are held at the regional and state level in late fall that require students to answer questions as a team in front of a panel of lawyers and others. The program enjoys active support from state bar associations and foundations, and other educational, professional, business, and community organizations across the nation.

\*Taken from We the People website

## English

*"We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy." (1 John 1:4, NIV)*

*"God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning." (Daniel 1:17, NIV)*

The goal of the middle school's Language Arts department is to empower lifelong readers, writers, and communicators with critical thinking skills and a well-established Christian worldview.

### English 5

Required: All Year

The goal of English 5 is to build upon students' previous knowledge through the use of technology and hands on learning experiences. We're also currently using *Strategies for Writers* to guide our students' learning. Students will continue practicing their skills by writing routinely, but are not limited to, journals, response to literature, persuasive writing, informative writing, and research papers. Our 5th graders will vamp up their writing skills with vocabulary used from *Sadlier* (level Blue), proper use of grammar, and mechanics.

### English 6

Required: All Year

The sixth-grade course will have students' progress from what they have learned previously, increasing in complexity and critical thinking skills. It will provide a balance of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. Students will progress through the writing process as they plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish their own specific types of writing. These writing types include persuasive, informative, argumentative, explanatory texts and narratives/descriptive. Students are required to draw upon and write about evidence from literary and informational texts. Because of the focus of writing in many forms, a research project is implemented throughout the year which answers a question, draws on several sources, and sharpens the focus based on the research findings. Through their writing tasks, students will recognize variations from standard English in his or her own and others' writing and speaking, and use this knowledge to improve their language use. Students will enhance the development of their English grammar skills through *Writer's Workshop* and *Strategies for Writers*. Students will also use *Sadlier's Vocabulary Workshop* (level A) to enrich their knowledge and use of vivid words as well as sharpening their spelling skills. Finally, by sharing their work and making oral presentations, students gain confidence and learn both how to present their information to others as well as how to be a good listener.

## English 7

Required: All Year

As seventh grade students' progress from one year to the next, the complexity of materials and responsibilities increase as well as the students' independence in the application of skills and strategies. Students will continue to develop deep critical thinking writing skills developed during Writer's Workshop and the 6+1 Traits of Writing curriculum. They will maintain writing regularly and in varied ways, including, journal writing, nonfiction and fiction narratives, descriptive, persuasive, informative, and argumentative forms of writing genre. Special emphasis is applied to ideas, voice, organization, sentence fluency, as well as, supporting evidence. Technology is incorporated into the writing process in order to develop additional experiences. Students will research relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. Formal grammar study solidifies the mastery of the parts of speech and sentence patterns with additional focus on grammar, usage, and mechanics. Enriching 7th graders' vocabulary is also a priority, and that is accomplished through Sadlier's Vocabulary Workshop (level B). Finally, by sharing their work and making oral presentations, students gain confidence in their understanding and in presenting what they know to others.

## English 8

Required: All Year

As eighth graders, students work on refining all language and writing skills taught in previous years. At the peak of importance for our 8th grade students is honing the skills needed for deep and critical thinking in writing; specifically, a strong emphasis is placed on text-based evidence in writing. Students expand their development as a writer with a focus on the 6+1 Traits of Writing—idea, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. Writing is practiced regularly and in different genres, including but not limited to, journaling, expository writing, descriptive writing, creative writing, and persuasive writing. Technology is incorporated into the writing process in each and every way possible. Students refine their knowledge and usage of the rules of standard English with grammar, usage, and mechanics. Enriching 8th graders' vocabulary is also a priority, and that is accomplished through Sadlier's Vocabulary Workshop (level C). Students gain experience and confidence in presenting their writings to others. The acme of such experiences takes place with the 8th Grade Poetry Coffeehouse, where students memorize and present a poem of their own creation. By the end of the 8th grade year, students are well prepared for the rigors of freshman English.

## Latin 5

Required: All Year

The student will learn approximately 300 Latin terms and vocabulary and the first three case declensions of the five noun declensions of Latin. They will learn conjugation of verbs, which helps in English grammar understanding. The study of Latin prepares students to learn root words and is a help in SAT and ACT vocabulary testing. Some history of Latin, research paper and project will be assigned. Our KCS students who give due diligence to Latin will see the expansion of their working and recognition vocabulary as never before.

A student who gives due diligence to Latin will gain an understanding of English grammar. A student who gives due diligence to Latin will score higher on college entrance exams than if there had been no Latin experience in school. A student who gives due diligence to Latin will learn and benefit from a knowledge of ancient history, how it bears on the New Testament and our lives today. A student with an understanding of Latin will gain lifelong rewards. Supplemental Text: Excerpts from *Christiana Latina* and excerpts from *Oxford Latin Course Part I*.

## Latin 6

Required: All Year

After learning Latin 1, Part 1, the student will learn approximately 300-350 Latin terms and vocabulary and the first three as well as the last two case declensions of the five noun declensions of Latin. They will learn conjugation of verbs, which helps in English grammar understanding. The study of Latin prepares students to learn root words and is a help in SAT and ACT vocabulary testing. Some history of Latin, research paper and project will be assigned. Our KCS students who give due diligence to Latin will see the expansion of their working and recognition vocabulary as never before. A student who gives due diligence to Latin will gain an understanding of English grammar. A student who gives due diligence to Latin will score higher on college entrance exams than if there had been no Latin experience in school. A student who gives due diligence to Latin will learn and benefit from a knowledge of ancient history, how it bears on the New Testament and our lives today. A student with an understanding of Latin will gain lifelong rewards. Supplemental Text: Excerpts from *Christiana Latina* and excerpts from *Oxford Latin Course Part I*.

## Latin 7

Required: All Year

After learning both parts of Latin 1, the student will learn approximately 300-400 Latin terms and vocabulary and all five declensions of the five noun declensions of Latin. They will learn conjugation of verbs, which helps in English grammar understanding. The study of Latin prepares students to learn root words and is a help in SAT and ACT vocabulary testing. Some history of Latin, research paper and project will be assigned. Our KCS students who give due diligence to Latin will see the expansion of their working and recognition vocabulary as never before. A student who gives due diligence to Latin will gain an understanding of English grammar. A student who gives due diligence to Latin will score higher on college entrance exams than if there had been no Latin experience in school. A student who gives due diligence to Latin will learn and benefit from a knowledge of ancient history, how it bears on the New Testament and our lives today. A student with an understanding of Latin will gain lifelong rewards. Supplemental Text: Excerpts from *Christiana Latina* and excerpts from *Oxford Latin Course Part I*.

## Latin 8

Required: All Year

After learning both parts of Latin 1 and the beginning of Latin 2, the student will learn approximately 300-450 Latin terms and vocabulary and all five declensions of the five noun declensions of Latin. They will learn conjugation of verbs, which helps in English grammar understanding. The study of Latin prepares students to

learn root words and is a help in SAT and ACT vocabulary testing. Some history of Latin, research paper and project will be assigned. Our KCS students who give due diligence to Latin will see the expansion of their working and recognition vocabulary as never before. A student who gives due diligence to Latin will gain an understanding of English grammar. A student who gives due diligence to Latin will score higher on college entrance exams than if there had been no Latin experience in school. A student who gives due diligence to Latin will learn and benefit from a knowledge of ancient history, how it bears on the New Testament and our lives today. A student with an understanding of Latin will gain lifelong rewards. Supplemental Text: Excerpts from *Christiana Latina* and excerpts from *Oxford Latin Course Part I*.

## Reading 5

Required: All Year

The goal of Reading Five is to strengthen reading comprehension and enhance students' critical thinking skills through the use of Bloom's Taxonomy and *Wonders* by McGraw Hill. This will be achieved through applying text-based evidence. By focusing on critical thinking skills, we will be able to zoom in on organizing their thoughts, sentence fluency, and find valuable information to support their theories. Students will also gain more confidence sharing their opinions and presenting facts through the use of small group discussion, presentations, and projects. Students will engage in reading fiction and nonfiction pieces of literature. Some of the literature pieces we will be reading are *Wonder*, *Maniac Magee*, *Countdown*, *Darby*, *City of Ember*, *David*, and *Clowns*. Each of the literature pieces that have been selected are designed to enhance our students' reading skills by enabling them to identify the author's purpose, setting, point of view, theme, mood, tone, plot, conflicts, how the character develops throughout the story, dialogue, and compare and contrast.

## Reading 6

Required: All Year

Sixth grade reading continues the basics of reading taught in the elementary grades, but everything is stepped up a notch. Sixth grade reading begins with a brief exploration into short stories found in Prentice Hall's Literature Grade 6 with fiction, nonfiction, and verse selections. With the basic principles of Foundations and Framework underpinning each unit, students will explore works of literature through several novel studies in various genres. These genres include historical fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy, adventure, and nonfiction. Students will maintain writing regularly and in varied ways, including journal writing, nonfiction and fiction narratives, narrative, descriptive, and persuasive forms of writing. Special emphasis is applied to ideas, literary terms, organization, sentence fluency, as well as supporting text evidence. Each reading unit enhances reading skills that include but are not limited to literary elements (setting, plot, characters, mood, tone, and conflict), character development, theme, Biblical perspective, and comparison/contrast. With the skills learned in each reading unit, as well as the confidence gained in the independent novel study they complete at the end of the year, students will be ready for the beginning of their 7th grade studies.



## Reading 7

Required: All Year

Seventh grade reading units center around a “Big Idea” and “Essential Questioning,” with the complexity of the texts increasing throughout the year. The reading skills are initially investigated using the literature textbook, Prentice Hall’s *Literature Grade 7*, and then critically analyzed further through both classic and contemporary novel studies. Seventh grade students will read and investigate a variety of texts, including, fiction books, nonfiction texts, and informational articles to increase their comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency. Furthermore, the students will have the opportunity to delve deep into the legendary “The Christmas Carol” and discover redemption and the biblical truths found throughout this historic novel by Charles Dickens. All literature units are analyzed further using the 8 Issues of Man while building a Biblical worldview.

Throughout the year, they will also learn and practice reading comprehension strategies such as previewing, activating prior knowledge, making connections, questioning, summarizing and evaluating what they read. In addition, they will learn how to properly use textual citation and write an analysis of text using a variety of selections. Their textual analyses will include, but are not limited to, theme, central idea, summarization, the literary elements (setting, plot, characters, mood, tone, and conflict), vocabulary, rhetorical elements, point of view, author’s purpose, and comparison & contrast. Each student will be well prepared for their 8th grade year of study.

## Reading 8

Required: All Year

Eighth grade reading finalizes students’ exposure to literature with the complexity of texts preparing students for the increased expectations in high school. Eighth grade reading begins with a brief investigation into short stories in Prentice Hall’s *Literature Grade 8*, in both fiction and nonfiction. Students will then journey into the depths of one of three contemporary young adult novels as literature circles are utilized to dissect and discuss what is encountered in the text. The remainder of the school year covers the Holocaust via a variety of literary genres--reading the play *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Corrie ten Boom’s classic *The Hiding Place*, and John Boyne’s contemporary fable *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. Students then move forward on the historical timeline to the novel *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly in a cross-curricular study. The investigation of texts in each of these units are driven by a critical analysis—specifically, through a textual dissection led by depth of knowledge as well as Bloom’s Taxonomy. Each reading unit enhances reading skills that include but are not limited to author’s purpose, tone and mood, conflict, character development, dialogue, plot, theme, and comparison/contrast. Biblical permeation is the lens through which all texts in reading are viewed; the 8 Issues of Man are analyzed and discussed with the reading of every major text. By the end of the 8th grade year, students are well prepared to interact with texts of varying difficulty levels and genres.

## Mathematics

*“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20, NIV)*

Our philosophy of education for middle school math is built upon the premise that God created a physical world of orderly relationships and patterns as He set the world in motion. While students are learning mathematics, they will understand the concept of absolute truth, and their minds will be strengthened through thinking and reasoning skills.

### Math 5

Required: All Year

Students begin by reviewing number sense with specific regard to place value. There is also an emphasis placed on basic computation skills, such as, addition, multiplication, subtraction, and division. These skills will lead to more complex multiplication and long division problems. This course will reinforce the concepts of fractions, decimals, basic algebra and geometry ideas, graphing, ratios, percents, and measurement.

### Math 6

Required: All Year

In this course, students review and reinforce basic skills of operation, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. This course is designed to enable students to understand mathematics involving concepts of decimals, fractions, formulas, equations, measurement, ratios, percents, integers, absolute value, and basic algebraic and geometric ideas.

### Math 7

Required: All Year

This mathematics course focuses on helping students ease into the transition from arithmetic to Algebra. Students review and strengthen foundational mathematical skills while adding new concepts. Some of the topics covered in this course include: problem solving techniques for equations, decimals, fractions, percents, inequalities, probability theory, statistics (mean, median, & mode), prime factorization, exponents, scientific notation, roots, the Pythagorean Theorem, properties (commutative, distributive, etc.), and other advanced concepts in preparation for Algebra I. In order to deepen an understanding of Geometry, this course also includes the study of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional figures with concepts of area, and volume.

### Math 8

### Pre-Algebra

All Year

In this course, students become more proficient in problem solving techniques and reasoning skills. Students review and hone concepts taught in Math 7. Some additional topics, covered in Course III, include the following: operations of positive and negative real numbers; classification of real numbers; algebraic ratios and proportions; radicals; coordinate graphing (linear and non-linear); statistics; functions; algebraic

expressions and linear equations, including identifying slope. In order to deepen an understanding of Geometry, this course also includes the study of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional figures with concepts of area, and volume.

## Algebra

Required: All Year      Pre-Requisite(s): Demonstration of high mathematics achievement competency

Enrollment in Algebra as an 8th grader is considered an advanced placement and will allow the student to 'skip' a book in the math progression. Students in the Algebra course must demonstrate high achievement and motivation, mastery of basic concepts, and strong aptitude for problem solving. There is an expectation of challenging independent work. Algebra is a high school class as it receives high school credit with the passing of the ECA exam at the end of the school year. Also, note that most high school programs expect an A/B in the 8th grade course to accept the credit. It is important to be informed as to how taking Algebra as an eighth grader, effects high school Math requirements. Participation in Algebra as an 8th grader doesn't count toward one of the required math courses in high school, but it allows the student to make room for higher level math courses by starting their high school career in Geometry. If your student doesn't excel in math, Algebra placement is not recommended.

## Physical Education

*"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. " (1 Timothy 4:8 NIV)*

Teamwork, good sportsmanship, effort, and athletic skills are emphasized in our middle school physical education courses. Students participate in a variety of athletic activities to facilitate the development of motor skills, coordination, and physical fitness. Character development is an integral part of our program as well. Students are encouraged to display Christ-like attitudes, fairness, honesty, respect, and kindness to others. While students have different athletic abilities, everyone is expected to do their personal best.

### Middle School PE [grades 6-8]

Required: All Year

Each class emphasizes age-appropriate physical development and fitness, competence in useful physical skills, and enjoyment of recreation. A big part of the middle school physical education classes are team sports. Students need to learn how to work as a team in a variety of games and activities such as; flag football, basketball, floor hockey, volleyball, dance, soccer, and others. Students work on flexibility, muscular strength, endurance, and cardiovascular health. These co-ed classes are structured so that students participate in physical education twice per week.

### Fitness & Conditioning [grades 7-8]

Elective: 1, 2 Semesters

This class works together with the physical education classes to encourage physical development in the classroom and in recreational atmospheres. A large part of this course will focus on personal fitness using a combination of body-weight exercises, circuit training, agility training, and age-appropriate weight training. Students work on flexibility, muscular strength, endurance, and cardiovascular health. This course also

includes a variety of lifetime sports to encourage recreational fitness. These co-ed classes are structured so that students participate in additional physical activity 2-3 times per week.

## Science

*“For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:16, NIV)*

Students will explore God’s creation of the universe, life, and the interaction of natural systems. Students will use the scientific method to explore all areas of science with a variety of hands-on activities. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the field of science.

### Science 5

Required: All Year

Students in fifth grade study the relationship between weight and volume and the differences between weight and mass. They study the solar system and patterns in the sun-moon-earth system. Students also study the relationships of producers and consumers in an ecosystem; they investigate the human musculoskeletal system, design and build prototypes. Within this study, students employ the key principles of the nature of science and the design process. Fifth grade students use questioning and reasoning to explore these concepts within the context of God's complex creation.

### Science 6

Required: All Year

Sixth grade students explore topics within Earth Science. This includes the study of the Earth, processes that occur within the Earth, such as volcanoes and earthquakes. Students also engage in studying the atmosphere, weather, and climate. Other concepts in sixth grade include the study of water, space the solar system, and an extensive look at the moon. Within this study, students employ the key principles of the nature of science and the design process. Sixth grade students will participate in many hands on activities to further their knowledge of Earth Science.

### Science 7

Required: All Year

7th grade students will explore a variety of topics aligning with Indiana academic standards. While utilizing a Christian worldview and interpretation of science students will investigate the following: Physical Science- Students will analyze the properties of solids, liquids, and gases and describe changes that take place when thermal energy is added or removed. We will also investigate Newton’s 3 laws of motion. Students will explore the law of conservation of energy and compare and contrast the three types of heat transfer. Earth Science- Students will identify properties of minerals and how they are related using the rock cycle. We will create diagrams explaining continental drift theory and tectonic plate movement. Students will also construct models of the interior layers of the earth. Students will also research the positive and negative environmental impacts of various renewable and nonrenewable resources. Life Science- Students will identify the characteristics of

living things. They will create models displaying cell division as a result of mitosis. Students will also research and describe the functions of various systems in the human body. Engineering-Students will evaluate various designs and determine potential impacts, and whether it meets the criteria for solving potential problems.

## Science 8

Required: All Year

8th grade students will explore a variety of topics aligning with Indiana academic standards. While utilizing a Christian worldview and interpretation of science students will investigate the following: Physical Science- we will investigate the elements that form all the matter in the universe, distinguishing between atoms, elements, molecules, and compounds. Students will also identify the differences between chemical and physical change and understand the Law of Conservation of Mass. Earth Science-students will analyze global temperatures over the past century and the theory of climate change. They will also create diagrams or carry out simulations that describe the water cycle. Lastly they will research environmental impacts humans have on earth and the idea of stewardship. Life Science- Students will demonstrate how genetic information is transmitted from parent to offspring and the various traits that get passed down. They will create cell structures with all of the organelles and describe what each does. Students will also create a defense for Creation through analyzing the theory of evolution and natural selection. Engineering-Students will evaluate various designs and determine potential impacts, and whether it meets the criteria for solving potential problems.

## Spanish

*“Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning.” (1 Corinthians 14:10 NIV)*

With an increasingly globalized society and a culturally diverse nation, knowing a foreign language is becoming essential. Our middle school foreign language program encourages students to see the larger world around them with Biblical worldview and a heart for missions. The Bible says, “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28:19.

All Spanish students are taught through a comprehensive approach to language. Beginning students learn the foundational basics of Spanish and some common phrases and vocabulary. As students progress through the Spanish program, verb tenses and syntax are taught so students can speak using the proper “voice” and phrasing. In addition to grammar, the use of songs, games, and skits encourage students to use the Spanish they have learned to increase fluency.

### Spanish 5

Required: All Year

Classes are held two times a week, and our textbook is ¡Holaj by the McGraw-Hill Wright publishers. This basic course introduces students to the phonemes (sounds) and nuances of the Spanish language. Students are taught common phrases and idioms found in basic conversational Spanish. The objective is to familiarize students with everyday expressions and relevant vocabulary needed for students to recognize the influence that the Spanish language has on our culture.

### Spanish 6

Required: All Year

Classes are held two times a week, and we continue using the ¡Holaj curriculum. Students build upon the foundations learned in the exploratory year. We increase fluency by learning how to utilize regular and irregular verb forms in a sentence. Once basic verb forms are learned, students are taught how to express likes and dislikes by using indirect object pronouns and the verb “gustar.” Our year is completed with a focus on the importance of family heritage “en el mundo hispanohablante.”

### Spanish 7/8

Required: All Year

Spanish 7 & 8 is a challenging foreign language course. Students build upon the foundations laid in the 5th and 6th grade years. Thematic units present everyday vocabulary in context and offer grammar points that help build fluency. Grammar topics include both present and past tense of regular and irregular verbs, conjugated verbs plus infinitive, special case verbs like gustar, ser/estar, expressions, as well as additional vocabulary. Our curriculum is “Así se dice” by the Glencoe McGraw Hill Wright Company. This fully-integrated online e-studio provides student access to audio and video activities with playback features. Assessment of progress is conducted via class participation, class work, special projects, and written/oral exams.

## Student Services

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15, NIV)*

Student Services are elective or if noted, referral-based classes that provide students a quiet, supervised place to study, work on homework, and receive additional academic support. Some students may be required to take a study helps course based on academic needs and referral to the course. Study Hall is especially helpful for students who are involved in sports, performing arts, or other extra-curricular activities.

### Higher Ground [grades 5-6]

Referral Based: 1, 2 Semester

Students in fifth and sixth grades have Higher Ground two times per week and are challenged in critical thinking and logic skills with a Christian worldview emphasis. Quarterly lessons include: Citizenship in our state, country and world, Community leadership, technology education literacy, and solving problem-based challenges of the world using STEM. Activities include art, music, robotics and videography, writing State Bills, field trips, community guest speakers. Students will be inspired to discover personal strengths and leadership and life skills they need for academic and career success, through public speaking and presentations and debate. This enrichment class for high ability is by invitation only and must have parental consent.

### Higher Ground [grades 7-8]

Referral Based: 1, 2 Semester

Students in seventh and eighth grades have Higher Ground two times per week and are challenged in critical thinking and logic skills with a Christian worldview emphasis. Quarterly lessons include: Citizenship in our state, country and world, Community leadership, technology education literacy, and solving problem-based challenges of the world using STEM. Activities include art, music, robotics and videography, writing State Bills, field trips, community guest speakers. Students will be inspired to discover personal strengths and leadership and life skills they need for academic and career success, through public speaking and presentations and debate. This enrichment class for high ability is by invitation only and must have parental consent.

### Learning Labs

Referral Based: 1, 2 Semester

Learning Labs are core curriculum specific classes that will enable teachers to work specifically with a small group of students using course concepts and the opportunity to explore particular challenges and opportunities that differ from those in a standard classroom environment. These labs will consist of Math or Language Arts. Students may be identified to participate in *Learning Labs* based on academic identification or teacher referral. These will be offered opposite the study hall schedule.

## Resource Help [grades 5-8]

Referral Based: 1, 2 Semester

Resource Help provides small group supplemental instruction for identified students requiring targeted interventions within the core academic areas. Participation in this class is reserved for those students who have gone through the appropriate referral process.

## Study Hall [grades 6-8]

Elective: 1, 2 Semester

Study Hall is a supervised study time for students to work on homework, read or prepare for tests or projects. Students are expected to come prepared with all the materials necessary to work or read.

## Technology

*"For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:6, NIV)*

With an ever-changing world driven by continual technological advancements, equipping our students with a firm foundation in technology education is essential. Our students are taught proper typing techniques, with lots of practice resulting in sharpened accuracy and speed. We strive to provide our middle school students with current software applications relevant to their lives. Most importantly, we provide an understanding of ethical issues surrounding the use of technology at school and elsewhere. We ensure our students are grounded with a Bible-based, Christian perspective.

## Keyboarding 5

Elective: 1 Quarter (exploratory track)

Keyboarding is a one-quarter course designed to help students develop speed and accuracy by learning the touch operation of alphanumeric/keyboard characters. Emphasis is placed on the following: mastery of the keyboard with desirable keyboarding techniques; development of speed and accuracy; and proper care of the equipment. Desktop publishing and good digital communication are also covered.

## Intro to Computer Science 5

Elective: 1 Quarter (exploratory track)

Intro to Computer Science explores the use of spreadsheet data through formulas, charts and reports. Students learn how to document the scientific process with accuracy and attention to detail through the development of an engineering notebook. Students explore career options related to computer science and the pathways to those careers.

## Intro to Digital Citizenship 6

Elective: 1 Semester

Intro to Digital Citizenship is the culmination of keyboarding skills and desktop publishing with an emphasis on digital communication through a variety of digital tools, including multimedia. Additional prominence is placed on social concepts such as copyright, cyberbullying, and information literacy.



## **Intro to Programming 6**

Elective: 1 Semester

Intro to Programming introduces students to algebraic concepts such as sequencing, loops, parallelism, conditionals, and operators. Students will learn how to document the development process for improved and faster problem solving and troubleshooting of errors. Students also explore storytelling and the use of narration within game development.

## **Digital Citizenship [grades 7-8]**

Elective: 1, 2 Semester

Digital Citizenship introduces students to the social skills and digital tools needed in a digital society and provides a foundation for high school. A heavy emphasis is placed on learning basic document formats, including letters, reports, and MLA style.

## **Digital Design [grades 7-8]**

Elective: 1, 2 Semester

Digital Design explores the development of 3D digital models. Additional emphasis is placed on spatial relationships and scale. Students also create physical models based upon their 3D designs. This course is recommended for students interested in design, architecture, construction, and art.

## **Multimedia [grades 7-8]**

Elective: 1, 2 Semester

Multimedia provides students hands-on experiences with current technology in the marketplace and its application in information technology. A wide range of current hardware and software will be explored. Students will use their creativity and skills to create and edit interactive multimedia presentations, digital images, sound, and movies, and will be introduced to animation and web pages.

## **Programming [grades 7-8]**

Elective: 1, 2 Semester

Programming explores program design, text window applications, graphics window applications and other elements of Small Basic language. Students become familiar with manipulating the computer to perform tasks and developing programs to aid in productivity. Programming also develops algebraic thinking and problem-solving skills vital in a digital world.

## Co-Curricular Activities

### Athletics [grades 5-8]

Pure Strength, Pure Motives

This is the heart of Kingsway Christian School athletics. Athletics is a tremendous vehicle with which to instill character qualities we want all our students to exhibit as they “grow in stature” – Luke 2:52. Kingsway is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Indianapolis Independent Sports League (IISL). This allows each team to participate against a variety of schools for a regular season and league tournament championships, which in turn presents many opportunities for the players to expand their knowledge and understanding of the sport as well as their abilities. Kingsway offers the following sports: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball and track & field.

### Chapel [grades 5-8]

Students participate in a weekly chapel service designed for grades 5-8. The goal of the KCS Middle School Chapel is to guide our students in a journey toward true-life transformation through relevance and relentless pursuit of Jesus. These weekly chapels include, in various formats, special music, videos, dramas, speakers, prayer emphasis, and trait tag recognition.

### Field Trip [grades 5-8]

Every year our middle school students will have an opportunity to participate in multiple field trips. Dates and time TBA - all field trips are subject to change: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Springfield, IL; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Creation Museum; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Chicago; 8<sup>th</sup> grade Retreat and Washington DC.

### Life Groups [grades 5-8]

Let's face it; following Jesus can sometimes be difficult. External influences such as peers, the need for approval, and the media often make it hard to follow Jesus. Preteens face tough choices at school, online and with friends. What they need is boldness and confidence to follow Jesus, which can only come from God. Our Life Groups support our students weekly through Bible study, discussion, and prayer.

### National Junior Honor Society [grades 7-8]

Advisory: Every Friday

Pre-Requisite(s): Must apply and meet criteria

The National Junior Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence overall. Five main purposes have guided chapters of NJHS from the beginning: to create enthusiasm for scholarship; to stimulate a desire to render service; to promote leadership; to encourage responsible citizenship; and to develop character in the students of secondary schools. These purposes also translate into the criteria used for membership selection in each local chapter

### Retreat [grade 8]

Each fall at the start of school, our eighth-grade class goes on a special overnight retreat. This time away provides a unique opportunity for our students to build friendships, make new ones, and to know their teachers outside of the classroom setting. Laying a good foundation for the start of school year, our eighth-

grade students are challenged to grow in “wisdom, in stature and in favor with God and man.” Specially designed challenges are aimed at growing our eighth graders in each of these four areas. We are passionate about sharing Jesus with our students and seeing them walk in kindness and brotherly love for one another. We are also serious about fun! We have a blast with numerous games and outdoor activities, such as swimming, hiking, human foosball, football, volleyball, and canoeing.

### **Safety Patrol [grades 6-8]**

Safety Patrol is an opportunity for students in grades 6-8 to assist with before and after school traffic flow. Students are taught procedures regarding proper traffic management, which builds leadership skills. These students manage the safety of pedestrians and vehicle flow. We appreciate their weekly commitment to serve our school family in rain, shine or snow! The Safety Patrol is recognized for their service during our Spring Awards program.

### **Service Hours [grades 5-8]**

Students are awarded at the end of the year by documenting their service hours within churches and various other community services. These students are recognized for their service during our Spring Awards program.

### **SLAM Week [grades 5-8]**

SLAM stands for Spiritual Life and Meaning. This is the Middle School spiritual emphasis week when we devote several days to focus on our spiritual life. We have lively team building activities and daily chapels which include special music, videos and guest speakers. We want our students develop their Christian walk into something that is relevant and real. Because God is Relentless in his pursuit of us, we must be Relentless in our pursuit of Him.

### **Washington D.C. Trip [grade 8]**

Every year our eighth-grade students have the opportunity to go to Washington D.C.! In the spring, we take a tour of our nation’s capital, learning all about the rich Christian heritage on which our country is founded. This is a chock-full, fast-paced trip. We visit all the memorials, such as the Korean War, Vietnam War, WWII War Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, and the Washington Monument. We tour the Smithsonian Museums and see the Ford’s Theatre where President Lincoln was assassinated, as well as the Peterson House where he was treated prior to passing. We also visit Arlington National Cemetery where the Tomb of the Unknown soldier dwells. Each year we go, we seek to tour the Holocaust Museum and the Capitol building, too. This is an amazing experience that creates life-long memories for our middle school students, as well as a deeper appreciation for the Christian heritage and sacrifices of our nation’s forefathers.

\*Elective courses may or may not be available each year, course content may change, and classes may be dropped based on participation.