

# EIGHTH GRADE

## Classroom Overview

### ❖ General Information:

- Rancho Santa Margarita Christian School (RSMCS) Eighth Grade students begin each day in their homeroom with their teacher leading them in pledges, prayers, and worship. Specialized teachers instruct the students on the core subjects of math, science, language arts, social science, and Bible. The enrichment subjects of physical education, drama/musical theater, Spanish, Digital Media, and Yearbook are taught by teachers who specialize in those areas. Junior high students are encouraged to participate in competitive sports teams and worship leadership. Eighth graders also have the opportunity to participate in ASB/student leadership.
- All subjects are intentionally taught from a Biblical worldview and meet or exceed the California State Standards. RSMCS is fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). All classroom teachers are Christians and have valid teaching credentials.

## Spiritual & Social

### ❖ Bible:

- 50 minutes, 4 days per week
- This Bible course will be focused on connecting students with God's Word in a way that allows them to study it, interact with it, and apply it. We will be using a variety of sources, including Scripture, curriculum, worship music, and more, to encourage the growth of each individual student's personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Classroom instruction will utilize group discussion, independent assignments, activities, assessments, and scripture memorization. Students will use a growth mindset and understand that, with love, perseverance, and the Holy Spirit, they are capable of becoming more like Christ.
- Textbooks: *Bible in Life for Middle School*, David C. Cook, NLT Bible with Concordance; additional teacher-provided resources

### ❖ Chapel:

- 45-minute chapel each week with worship and message

### ❖ Social:

- Emphasis on Christian character development and biblical conflict resolution. Exemplary, Biblical character traits are recognized and awarded each trimester. Focus on further developing students' group and independent study habits, organizational skills, as well as instilling academic and social responsibilities that will serve students throughout their school years and beyond.

## Academic

### ❖ Mathematics (Course 3/Algebra I):

- 50 minutes, 5 days per week
- The California Standards for Mathematics are organized by strands, which are taught each year. Each year builds upon the year before with increasing complexity and expectations. All content will be taught for mastery at all levels. The 8th grade math program covers the content necessary to prepare students for high school Algebra I or Geometry.

## Academic continued

### Instructions for Success:

- Communication is of the utmost importance. In addition, students will be required to write their assignments down daily. Parents will be notified if any concerns arise.
- Daily assignments: The students are responsible for completing daily math homework and should average 15 minutes per night. Homework is not meant to interfere with the parent/child relationship, but rather provide reinforcement for the current curriculum. Assignments MUST include the proper heading to receive full credit. Math homework is given daily, Mon.-Thu.
- Notes are taken daily. If a student is absent, he/she is responsible for obtaining the notes from another student and copying them into their consumable textbook.
- Tests/Assessments/Activities/Quizzes will be given regularly. All tests will be announced at least one week prior to being given. Quizzes may be given at any time.
- Each student will have an opportunity to receive 5 participation points per day in addition to other assessments. These points can be deducted if the student fails to meet expectations set forth; i.e. bringing all materials to class daily.
- Materials to be brought to class daily include the textbook, two pencils, eraser, Chromebook, and calculator.

### Activities and Methods:

- Textbook: *Reveal Math, Course 3* (McGraw-Hill)

### ❖ English:

- 50 minutes, 5 days per week
- English 8 is a literature-based class that will focus on helping students build upon the foundational skills that were introduced in seventh grade in three significant areas: critical thinking and literary analysis, written communication, and oral communication. This class is discussion-centered; students are responsible for preparing for class and actively participating. The class will also utilize a number of varied learning methods including, but not limited to the following: shared inquiry, project-based learning, class and group discussion, classroom debates, Blogging, independent research, lecture, multimedia, and field trips.

### Objective:

- Demonstrate the writing process, from brainstorming to publication
- Identify the component parts of a multi-paragraph essay
- Write well-constructed, coherent, and multi-paragraph essays
- Demonstrate an enriched vocabulary through study of Greek and Latin roots and Wordly Wise vocabulary
- Define key literary terms, devices, and identify in context
- Examine a variety of poetic forms and devices
- Deliver well-organized, formal presentations utilizing traditional rhetorical techniques
- Write and speak with an authority of standardized English conventions
- Discuss concepts of character analysis, theme and elements of plot
- Discussions will focus on the Christian perspective and how it differs from secular concepts.

### Activities and Methods:

- Textbooks: *Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes Silver Level* (Prentice-Hall); *Fundamentals of Literature* (Bob Jones); *Writing and Grammar* (Bob Jones); *Worldly Wise 3000*; various novels

### ❖ Life Science:

- 50 minutes, 5 days per week
- The course will explore the physical universe and its laws from a Christian perspective. Physical science study will include motion, forces, structure of matter, density and buoyancy, chemical bonding, and chemical reactions. Earth Science Study will include the lithosphere and geosphere. Scientific theories and laws will be studied and applied to demonstrations and laboratory exercises.

## Academic continued

### Students will:

- Demonstrate the writing process, from brainstorming to publication
- Experience instruction through hands-on experiments, observations, classroom discussions and debates
- Learn to distinguish between theory and fact through the application of the Scientific Method
- Develop critical thinking skills through studying ethics in science
- Know appearance, general composition, relative position and size, and motion of objects in the solar system, including the sun, planets, moons, comets, and asteroids
- Explore the structure and composition of the universe by studying stars and galaxies
- Learn Laws of Physical Science, velocity, direction and magnitude of forces, density and buoyancy
- Learn solid and fluid matter in motion
- Study atoms and the Periodic Table of the Elements
- Investigate chemical compounds, bonding and reactions
- Textbooks: *Space & Earth Science for Christian Schools* (BJU Press); *Science and Technology, Physical Science* (Holt, Rinehart, Winston)

### ❖ US History:

- 50 minutes, 5 days per week
- In this course, students will study a variety of topics in American history. Units of study will include events preceding the Founding of the Nation, the U.S. Constitution, the Early Republic, Growth and Conflict in the New Nation, Slavery, Civil War and Reconstruction, and the Industrial Revolution. Elections and current political issues will also be discussed and analyzed. Most importantly, students will be challenged to think critically, relate past history to the present day, and examine God's sovereign hand in the affairs of His creation.

### Objective:

- Examine the role of Christianity in shaping history and the modern world
- Define their Christian faith by comparing it with other belief systems
- Comprehend the time frame of our created world to better understand their place in time
- Be challenged to think critically
- Relate past history to the present day
- Understand the inferred meaning behind political cartoons
- Identify historical origins in our current society
- Recognize important geographical places, both past and present
- Develop a curiosity for history and the world we live in
- Examine the lives of important people in light of the Scriptures

### Activities/Methods:

- Interactive whiteboard presentations with lectures and student note-taking
- Classroom discussion and debates
- Historical simulations
- Teacher and student demonstrations
- Internet research and activities
- DVD/Videos
- Textbook: *The American Republic for Christian Schools* (BJU Press)

## Enrichment

### ❖ Physical Education:

- Four days per week for 45 minutes each day students dress in their school-provided P.E. uniforms and participate in a variety of cardiovascular and strength-building exercises. Throughout the year, students learn athletic fundamentals and play the following: flag football, volleyball, basketball, hockey, pickleball, soccer, and a variety of cooperative games and activities. In addition, fitness testing is conducted at the beginning and end of the school year.
- After-school sports programs are available to all fifth- through eighth-grade students. RSMCS competes against schools in the Christian Athletic League of Orange County, whose major emphasis is on maintaining a Christian attitude of sportsmanship, honesty, respect, teamwork, and responsibility. Sports programs are available for the following: girls and boys volleyball, girls and boys flag football, girls and boys basketball, coed soccer, and girls and boys track.

### ❖ Technology:

- All RSM Christian School students in third through eighth grade receive hands-on computer learning instruction from the classroom teacher as well as educational testing and assessments on a Chromebook through our one-to-one technology initiative. Emphasis for eighth-grade is on becoming proficient using technology as a tool. Technology is fully integrated across the eighth-grade curriculum in all foundational subjects - language arts, social studies, math, and science. Junior high students also have technology-rich elective options.
- Applications taught: Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Google Sites, Adobe Express, Google Chrome
- Other Applications used: IXL, MAP by NWEA, Vocabulary A-Z, TypingClub, Google Classroom

### ❖ Music:

- All students in 7th & 8th grade will have the opportunity to audition for the JH worship team that will lead worship for JH chapels throughout the year. The selected team will be led and mentored by pastors and worship leaders on a weekly basis in preparation for the weekly chapel.
- Each year there will be two audition opportunities for participation in a full-length musical production. JH students are encouraged to audition and participate in these productions.
- Students have the opportunity to enroll in Musical Theatre class. This class provides an overview of the theater world to our students and is primarily a course in the art of acting and music education. Students will learn the basics of theater and production. Weekly in-class rehearsals will culminate in a musical theater production. Ukulele instruction is included as part of this class.

### ❖ Spanish (1A and 1B):

- 45 minutes, 4 days per week
- Spanish 1A will focus on Spanish grammar, listening and reading comprehension, and oral and written communication. Additionally, the course will expose the student to the diversity of cultures and people of the Spanish-speaking world.
  - Objectives include greeting people, correctly identifying time, past, present, and future tenses, making purchases and choices, and describing similar and different characteristics of given objects.
  - Textbook: *¿Cómo te va? - Nivel Verde* (Glencoe Middle School Spanish)
- Spanish 1B will emphasize applying all previously learned Spanish grammar, acquired vocabulary listening and reading comprehension, and oral and written communication. Students will memorize Bible verses and songs in Spanish to equip them to share the gospel in Spanish. Students will be encouraged to interact with Spanish native speakers.
  - Objectives include sports, likes and dislikes, minor illnesses, feelings characteristics and conditions, past, present, and future tenses, and fluently writing essays and interacting with others.
  - Textbook: *¿Cómo te va? - Nivel Azul* (Glencoe Middle School Spanish)
  - After Spanish 1B, students will be eligible to test into Spanish II for High School

## Enrichment continued

### ❖ **Yearbook Elective:**

- Students enrolled in this class will design and complete all aspects of the RSMCS yearbook, including photography and photoshop. While there are no prerequisites to enroll in this class, an information form is required for consideration of enrollment.

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