

SEVENTH GRADE

Classroom Overview

General Information:

➤ Rancho Santa Margarita Christian School (RSMCS) Seventh 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. All subjects are taught to 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 teachers are Christians and have valid teaching credentials.

Spiritual & Social

❖ Bible:

- > 50 minutes, 4 days per week
- A study of God's Word intending to lead students toward knowledge, understanding, and wisdom in their walk and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- > Students will participate in lessons and activities to help them apply the Scriptures to important issues adolescents face in today's changing world. They will research credible evidence of biblical accounts and learn how to defend their faith. Worship will be highly emphasized in biblical studies and manifested in chapel. Students will also conduct an in-depth, personalized study of the Gospel of John.
- > Textbooks: *Bible New Living Translation with Concordance*, *The Case For Christ* Lee Strobel Student Edition, Additional teacher-provided resources.

Students will:

- Discover credible biblical evidence
- Understand Scripture and its primary themes
- Apply basic biblical principles that will enrich their lives
- Think through how biblical revelation ought to affect one's life & draw one closer to the living God
- Learn essential details about the person of Jesus Christ
- **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 (Pre-Algebra):

- > 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 RSM seventh grade math program covers all material necessary to prepare students for the 8th grade math content.

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 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 2 (McGraw-Hill)

English:

- > 50 minutes, 5 days per week
- English 7 is a literature-based class that will focus on helping students develop foundational skills 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, journaling, independent research, lecture, multimedia, and field trips.

Objectives:

- 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
- Define key literary terms, devices, and identify in context
- Deliver well-organized, formal presentations utilizing traditional rhetorical techniques
- Write and speak with an authority of standardized English conventions and an enriched vocabulary
- Discuss concepts of character analysis, theme, and plot
- Discussions will focus on the Christian perspective and how it differs from secular concepts

Activities and Methods:

■ Textbooks: Excursions in Literature (Bob Jones); Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes Bronze Level (Prentice-Hall); Wordly Wise 3000, Writing and Grammar Worktext (Bob Jones); various novels

Academic Continued

❖ Life Science:

- > 50 minutes, 5 days per week
- The course explores life science from a Christian perspective always based upon God's Word and designed to enrich the students' knowledge and appreciation of God's creation. Focusing on biology, this course uses science as a way of examining the natural world and how studying life will glorify God.

Students will:

- Gain appreciation for the creation of life through discussion, hands-on activities, labs and projects
- Study scientific theories and laws and apply them to demonstrations and laboratory exercises
- Learn to distinguish between theory and fact through the application of the Scientific Method
- Concentrate on the life process of various organisms
- Explore DNA technology and current advancements
- Learn about the anatomy and physiology of animals through dissection
- Learn more about one's own body through the study of human anatomy and physiology
- Textbook: Life Science for Christian Schools, 5th edition (BJU Press)

❖ World History:

- > 50 minutes, 5 days per week
- The course will explore the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, Asia, and parts of North and South America in the years A.D. 500-1700. Students study the history and geography of great civilizations that were developing concurrently throughout the world during medieval and the beginning of modern times. Students examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. Throughout the year, examples of people and nations who either followed God's standard or failed to do so will be evaluated as the students are encouraged to develop values and principles based on their knowledge.

Objective:

- Analyze the causes and effects of the vast expansion and ultimate disintegration of the Roman Empire
- Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of the Arab societies, sub-Saharan Africa, China, and Japan in the Middle Ages
- Analyze the historical developments of the scientific revolution and its lasting effect on religious, political, and cultural institutions
 - Analyze political and economic change in the Age of Exploration, the Enlightenment, and the Age of Reason
- Study missionaries who have influenced change
- Examine the lives of others in light of the Scriptures

Activities/Methods:

- Interactive whiteboard: Google Slide Shows, Internet, and videos with note taking
- Hands-on activities
- Student demonstrations
- Classroom discussions and debates
- Textbook: World History (Holt)

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.

Enrichment continued

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 seventh grade is on becoming proficient using technology as a tool. Technology is fully integrated across seventh-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 and 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)
 - At completion of Spanish 1B, students will be eligible to test into Spanish II for High School.

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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