

# PROGRAM OF STUDY

Middle School (7th-8th Grade)

2022-2023



FIRST BAPTIST  
SCHOOL

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Head of School

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

## 2022-2023

### *Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective*

The Middle School of First Baptist School, located in downtown Charleston, South Carolina, emphasizes a Christian worldview and academic rigor.

Seventh and eighth grades are a time of preparation and transition at First Baptist School, and our curriculum is designed to foster student growth and independence. During this time, students begin to assume a greater responsibility for self and schoolwork. Our school facilitates this growth in two ways: through classroom instruction and spiritual formation.

Our instructional curriculum focuses on developing each student's mind by introducing higher-level math, fostering independent thinking, focusing on formal research and writing practices, and developing critical thinking skills. Our one-to-one ChromeBook initiative ensures that students learn these skills in conjunction with instruction in digital citizenship. Core classes are further supplemented with classes in Spanish, art, physical education, music, and more, providing students with a robust, liberal arts education.

The school's location also enables our faculty to enrich student learning through unique, hand-on experiences in the downtown area. History students might stroll through the downtown area while learning about the pirates of South Carolina while English classes may walk to the Dock Street Theatre to view dramatized versions of classic literature. As students explore the area, they develop a first-hand knowledge of the rich history and culture of Charleston and the state of South Carolina.

At First Baptist School, we also believe it is essential to cultivate each student's spiritual well-being. Students are enrolled in a year-long Bible class which equips them with a foundational knowledge of Biblical truths. Students also attend a weekly chapel service that is designed to promote Christian worldview and enrich students' spiritual lives.



# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ENGLISH

### GRADE 7: ELA

Textbook: Writing and Grammar- BJU Press

English 7 studies traditional grammar and guides students through the step-by-step use of the Writing Process for a variety of writing assignments. Students write several times a week in an online journal. The student worktext provides guided practice, independent practice, chapter reviews, and cumulative reviews.

Reading: English 7 uses McDougal Littell Literature (green) text, a survey of literature including short stories, poetry, fiction and nonfiction, drama. In addition, 7th graders read a variety of novels in class and as out of class/parallel reading. Students will analyze and discuss story elements and literary devices across genres.

Vocabulary: 7th graders use Wordly Wise for vocabulary study and practice, including root words, synonym/antonym, shades of meaning, and analogies. Students also pull vocabulary from the context of various reading materials to better understand and use words.

### GRADE 8: ELA

Textbook: Writing and Grammar- BJU Press

English 8 studies traditional grammar and guides students through the step-by-step use of the Writing Process for a variety of writing assignments. Students write several times a week in an online journal. The student worktext provides guided practice, independent practice, chapter reviews, and cumulative reviews.

Reading: McDougal Littell Literature (orange) text, a survey of literature including short stories, poetry, fiction and nonfiction, drama. In addition, 7th graders read a variety of novels in class and as out of class/parallel reading. Students will analyze and discuss story elements and literary devices across genres.

Vocabulary: 8th graders use Wordly Wise for vocabulary study and practice, including root words, synonym/antonym, shades of meaning, and analogies. Students also pull vocabulary from the context of various reading materials to better understand and use words.

## HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES

### 7TH GRADE WORLD HISTORY

Textbook: World History - Holt McDougal

This course is a study of both ancient and modern world history, including the foundation of civilizations, belief systems, commerce, exploration, enlightenment, political revolutions, the industrial revolution, nationalism, imperialism through the world wars, the cold war, the quest of countries seeking independence, and changes in current global patterns. Students will learn in a variety of ways including, but not limited to lecture notes, projects, hands-on activities, virtual field trips, videos and primary document analysis.

### 8TH GRADE US HISTORY

*with emphasis on SC History*

Textbook: South Carolina: The Beautiful Palmetto State

Social Studies in the 8th grade consists of the study of South Carolina history and its role in the development of U.S. history. Instruction will utilize inquiry, historical thinking skills, and themes as outlined in the South Carolina Social Studies Standard. The school campus, located within the historic district of Charleston, offers invaluable opportunities for students to learn South Carolina history directly outside their classroom door.

## MATHEMATICS

### 7TH FUNDAMENTALS OF ALGEBRA

Textbook: Fundamentals of Algebra - Sadlier Oxford

In this course, students will be challenged to use their previous math skills to apply to new sixth grade mathematical content. This course will consist of the following topics: Integers, Expressions and Equations, Inequalities, Rational Numbers, Ratios and Proportions, Percentages, Data Analysis, Two- and Three-Dimensional Geometry, Probability, Functions, and Polynomials.

Throughout the year, students will not only build upon the tools needed to comprehend math but will also display a variety of soft skills. These soft skills enable them to become more independent, ensuring their success as students. Students will be held accountable for ensuring that all assignments are completed and submitted promptly. All students should be proactive in their learning and take the initiative to ask for help when necessary.

In this course, students will be working both independently and collaboratively. Learning to cooperate with others and share mathematical ideas in groups will be a focus during class. Students will complete various projects throughout the year and will practice public speaking in the form of project presentations. The course will also allow students to continue to build upon their independent note taking skills; these should be referenced when preparing for all quizzes and tests.

## 7TH PRE-ALGEBRA

In this course, students will continue to work on the following skills to obtain mastery: Integers, Expressions and Equations, Inequalities, Rational Numbers, Ratios and Proportions, Percentages, Data Analysis, Two- and Three-Dimensional Geometry, Probability, Functions, and Polynomials. The students will be taught the foundational skills needed to be successful in Algebra I. Students are asked to think critically and apply their knowledge to real world situations.

## 8TH PRE-ALGEBRA

Textbooks: Fundamentals of Algebra - Sadlier Oxford and Pre-Algebra - Pearson Prentice Hall

In this course, students will continue to work on the following skills to obtain mastery: Integers, Expressions and Equations, Inequalities, Rational Numbers, Ratios and Proportions, Percentages, Data Analysis, Two- and Three-Dimensional Geometry, Probability, Functions, and Polynomials. The students will also be taught the foundational skills needed to be successful in Algebra I. Students are asked to think critically and apply their knowledge to real world situations.

## ALGEBRA 1 CP

*1 high school credit*

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Textbook: Algebra I - Envision

Grades 8 -9. This course provides a foundation for problem solving by using functions, symbolic reasoning and mathematical modeling. Students investigate real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, functions, exponents and polynomials, and polynomial factoring techniques. Algebra 1 provides an essential foundation for higher level mathematics coursework.

## SCIENCE

### 7TH LIFE SCIENCE

Textbook: Life Science - McGraw Hill

7th grade science studies life science, which would include classification of life, cell structure and processes, bacteria, plants, animals, human body systems, ecosystems and interactions. Students develop the skills of science by engaging in scientific inquiry, planning and conducting scientific investigations, completing research projects, or interpreting data. Students are challenged to build connections across concepts and disciplines as they develop curiosity about the living organisms in our beautifully created world.

### 8TH PHYSICAL SCIENCE

*1 high school credit*

Textbook: Physical Science - McGraw-Hill

8th grade science studies physical science and introductory chemistry concepts. Units covered include force and motion, energy, and properties and interactions of matter. Students will prepare for the rigor of high school science by engaging in scientific inquiry, planning and conducting investigations, writing formal lab reports, and interpreting data. Physical science is a very hands-on and mathematical science. Students are constantly challenged to apply what they learn in the classroom to observed phenomena.

## SPANISH

### SPANISH I

*1 high school credit*

Grades 7 – 8. Spanish 1 gives the student a general understanding of Spanish grammar and an appreciation of Spanish culture. It also gives the student the tools to read, speak and write in Spanish. Middle school students will take this course over a two-year period. Half of Spanish I will be in 7th grade and the other half will be in 8th grade. If a student does not do well in Spanish I during Middle School, they will be asked to retake in 9th grade.

# BIBLE

## SEVENTH GRADE BIBLE

Textbooks: New International Version Bible

The Map: Making the Bible Meaningful, Accessible, Practical by Nick Page and The Story by Max Lucado

This course covers the first eight books of the Bible (Genesis - Ruth). The objective is to show how God revealed himself to the world first through the promises he made to Abraham and his descendants. This survey course begins with the creation account in Genesis and continues through the formation of the theocratic nation of Israel under the leadership of the judges. Covenants made by God with Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Moses are studied as they illuminate the need for a savior and point readers toward Jesus Christ.

## 8TH GRADE BIBLE

Course: Old Testament Survey II: Studying the narrative of 1 Samuel- Malachi.

Textbooks: The Story: Teen Edition: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee (class set is provided) and The Map: Making the Bible meaningful, accessible, practical by Nick Page (class set is provided)

This survey course gives an overview of the history of the nation of Israel, the rise of the monarchy, the split of the kingdom, and the fall of the nations of Israel and Judah by studying the books of 1 Samuel - Malachi. The course will examine God's providence in allowing Judah and Israel to fall but also how his prophets delivered a message of hope and redemption and ultimately Jerusalem was rebuilt. The course will emphasize messianic prophecies that detail the coming messiah and how Jesus did not fail to fulfill any single prophecy made about the Messiah.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## DISCOVERING COMPUTER SCIENCE

Textbook: Code.org online curriculum

Grades 7-8. Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory computer science course for 6 - 10th grade students. Mapped to CTSA standards, the course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, animations, games, and physical computing systems.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course provides coverage of the fundamentals of personal physical development through exercise, an introduction to the rules and techniques required in team and individual sports, and the opportunity to develop personal skills like teamwork, leadership, and self-awareness. The students are bussed to the James Island campus to participate in class in the gymnasium.





## ELECTIVES

*\*Options change yearly, but most are consistently offered*

### CYBER PATRIOT

The Cyber Patriot team is part of the national Air Force Association's (AFA) Cyber Patriot program. The team meets weekly to learn basic cyber security principles, including password protection and authentication, encryption, and malware and digital safety. The team uses both Linux and Windows images provided by the AFA to perform updates. Corporate sponsors of AFA also give the Cyber Patriot team the opportunity to learn a variety of software, providing students with the unique opportunity to broaden their knowledge base. Finally, the team also competes in regional and state competitions, applying the skills they've learned during weekly practice.

### ART

Art is a nine-week program designed to introduce the students to basic art concepts and techniques. The program will focus on the elements of art and principles of design. Each student will learn how to apply those elements as they develop their projects in class. While being exposed to these methods and techniques the students will continue to develop their own sense of artistic creativity by learning how to honor and glorify God through the study of art.

### STUDENT COUNCIL

Each student council member is elected by the student body, and the student council consists of a president and vice president team, a public relations director, and a safety director. Upon election, student council members listen to the concerns of the student body, serve as a liaison between students and administration, assist in improving the school, and work to serve the school and surrounding community. Student council members also develop and organize service projects throughout the year.

### MATH TEAM

All middle school students are invited to apply to the math team, and students who are selected to join the team will develop test taking strategies, the ability to solve problems quickly and accurately, and will reinforce their knowledge of general math skills, ranging from order of operations to the Pythagorean Theorem. The team competes in the SCISA annual Middle School Math Meet, which includes approximately 50 teams from around the state

## QUIZ BOWL

Quiz Bowl members hone their knowledge about literature, current events, history, science, fine arts, and pop culture and work as a team to answer timed questions about each subject. Each year, the Quiz Bowl team participates in regional matches against other SCISA schools.

## FISHING

This is a popular elective that is loaded with information and FUN! Students learn everything from rigging to measuring. Our classroom days are important to be able to teach current rules and regulations for our area as well as knot tying and proper terms. Our open water fishing days are for students to apply their knowledge and to test their skills. Safety is always our number one priority every class on or off campus. This elective has a lot to offer the avid fisherman or just a curious individual. This is also a great opportunity to talk about creation and how perfect God made each animal!

## DANCE

Dance is offered as a weekly co-curricular activity for our middle school students in grades 7 and 8. Students explore the creative process through improvisation and choreography projects, as well as technical instruction in ballet, tap, lyrical, and jazz. The FBS Dance Program meets the National Core Arts Standards in Dance and aims to develop artistically literate students who are educated in mind, body, and spirit. Students participate in an annual Spring Dance Performance, which includes all dancers in grades K3-12th grade.

## BAND

Students in 4th - 12th grade are offered the opportunity to learn a new instrument and participate in our concert band during the school day. Students gain a greater appreciation through perceiving, performing, listening, and responding to music. Our program meets during the school day, and we actively work on the National Standards for Music Education. This includes listening, creating, reading, and performing music. Band students participate in a minimum of 2 performances a year: winter & spring. Students work with guest musicians throughout the school year, as well as attend a Charleston Symphony Orchestra Concert.

## CHOIR

Students in 3rd - 12th grade are offered the opportunity to participate in our choral ensemble during the school day. Students gain a greater appreciation through perceiving, performing, listening, and responding to music. Students actively work on the National Standards for Music Education which include singing, listening, creating, and reading music. Choir students participate in a minimum of 2 performances a year: Christmas & spring choral concert. Students work with guest musicians, and typically collaborate with the school musical/talent show in the spring. Students also attend a minimum of one professional ensemble such as the Charleston Symphony Orchestra.



INTEGRATING  
FAITH WITH LEARNING  
S. CAROLINA