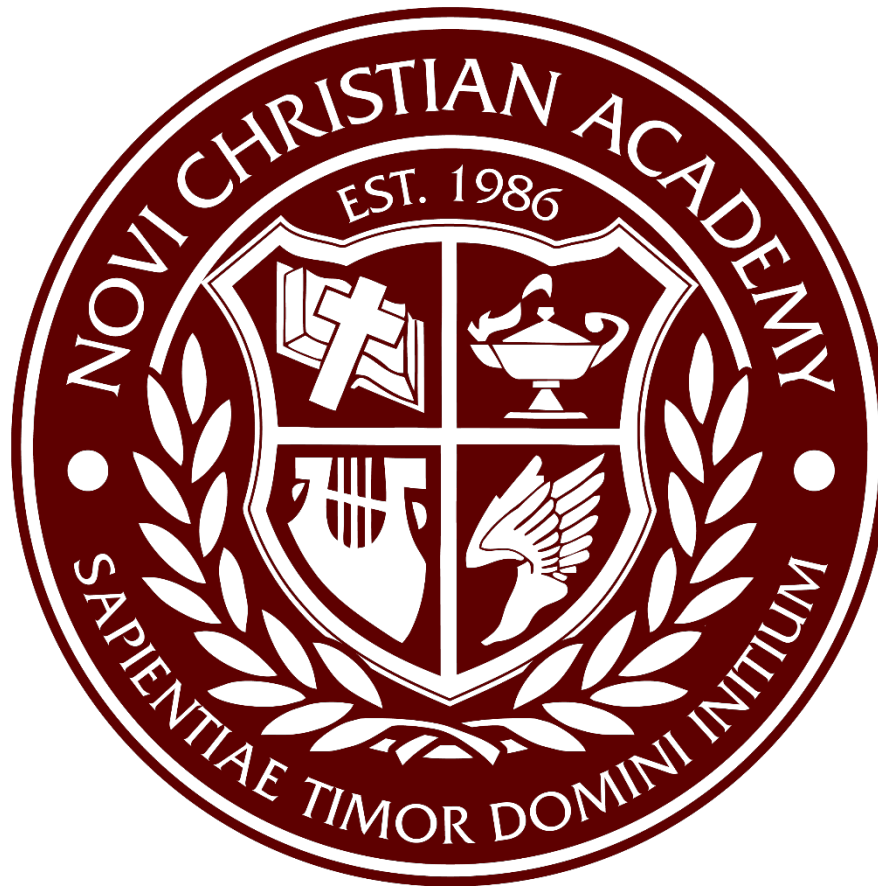


# Novi Christian Academy

## Middle School Course Descriptions

2024-2025



**Novi Christian Academy**  
**40800 West 13 Mile Road**  
**Novi, Michigan 48377**  
**(248) 668-7100**  
**FAX: (248) 668-7101**  
**[www.novichristianacademy.org](http://www.novichristianacademy.org)**

# **Administration**

## **Superintendent**

Dan Robinson  
drobinson@warriorweb.org

## **K-12 Principal**

Stacy Holleman  
sholleman@warriorweb.org

## **Guidance Counselors**

Amy Bowdich  
Counseling@warriorweb.org

# **Contact Information**

High School Main Office.....248.668.7100  
Athletic Office .....248.668.7024  
Financial Office .....248.668.7111

# Table of Contents

Guidance and Counseling Services	1
Summary of Testing	2
Grading Scale /GPA Equivalencies	3
Sequence of Courses Map	4
List of Course Selections	
Biblical Studies	5
English Language Arts	6
Mathematics	7
Physical Education	8
Science	9
Social Science	11
Technology	12
Visual, Performing and Applied Arts	13
World Language	15

# Counseling and Guidance

## **Welcome!**

The counseling office is where students come and help themselves to a multitude of information. If a student wishes to meet with his/her counselor individually, he/she needs to fill out a "Request to See Your Counselor" form located in the MS/HS office. Students may wish to discuss personal issues or have questions about his/her middle school schedule.

## **Role of Counselor - Scheduling**

Your counselor is a key person to assist you with scheduling. Parents will have suggestions and concerns, but the person most aware of your abilities, aptitude, and future plans is YOU. Spend time discussing next year's schedule with your parents, prior to meeting with your counselor.

## **Academic Counseling**

Every student will meet with his/her counselor prior to finalizing the course selection sheet. Student's course selections help determine the classes offered the following year. Therefore, students will not be able to change their mind or drop classes once selection sheets are complete. Extenuating circumstance will be addressed on an individual basis. The course selection sheet must be signed by both student and parent, and teacher when necessary.

# Testing Information

Name of Test	Purpose of Test	When Given	Who participates	Location of Testing	Approximate Cost
<b>IOWA FLEX</b>  <b>IOWA COMPLETE</b>	Assess students progress	Fall, Winter  Spring	K – 8 <sup>th</sup>  K-11th	NCA	Included in tuition
<b>PRE -ACT 9</b> <b>PRE -ACT 10</b>	College readiness assessment	October	9th grade 10th grade	NCA	Included in tuition
<b>PSAT</b>	1-Practice for the SAT 2-Screening for the National Merit Scholarship 3-Receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to student search	October	11th grade	NCA	Included in tuition
<b>SAT</b>	Qualification for College acceptance	Various National Dates	11th & 12th grade	Register on-line at <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a> (NCA Code: 233460)	\$60 minimum (add'l fees for options)
<b>ACT</b>	Qualification for College acceptance	Various National Dates	11th & 12th grade	Register on-line at <a href="http://www.actstudent.org/register/index.html">http://www.actstudent.org/register/index.html</a> (NCA Code: 233460)	\$88 w/writing portion \$64 w/o writing portion (add'l fees for options)
<b>AP Testing</b>	College level exam- can earn college credit depending on test score	May	11th & 12th graders in AP classes	TBD	\$95 each
<b>CLEP Tests</b>	Receive college credit for what you already know by earning qualifying scores on any of 33 examinations.	Summer following Senior Year or at the beginning of their college year.		Attending college <a href="http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_clep/searchCLEPTestCenter.jsp">http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_clep/searchCLEPTestCenter.jsp</a>	\$90 each

# Grading Scale and GPA Equivalencies

Novi Christian Academy uses the following grading scale:

Letter Grade	Percent	GPA Scale
A	100 – 93	4.0
A-	92 - 90	3.7
B+	89 – 88	3.3
B	87 – 83	3.0
B-	82 – 80	2.7
C+	79 – 78	2.3

Letter Grade	Percent	GPA Scale
C	77 – 73	2.0
C-	72 – 70	1.7
D+	69 – 68	1.3
D	67 – 63	1.0
D-	62 – 60	0.7
F	59 – 0	0.0

## SEMESTER GRADES

The semester grades of all academic classes are a combination of the two quarter grades (40% each quarter) and an average of two quarter exam grades (20%).

Example:	Quarter 1 Grade:	94% x .40 = .376
	Quarter 2 Grade:	86% x .40 = .344
	Average of 2 quarter Exam Grades:	80% x .20 = <u>.160</u>
		.88 = 88% = B+

\*\*Cumulative GPA is updated at the end of each semester

## ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic Honors will be determined at the end of Quarter 3 based on the student's cumulative grade point average for the school year. Students who are eligible will be recognized.

Distinguished Honors	4.0
High Honors	3.5-3.9999
Honors	3.0-3.4999

## CREDIT DEFICIENCY POLICY

Students who fail a class are responsible to retake the course on their own time/expense. Students must complete and present an official transcript of the class credit to the counseling office prior to the start of the next semester.

# Sequence of Courses Map

The chart below illustrates our suggested sequence of courses. As a college prep school, many of the course selections are part of a predetermined curriculum designed to ensure that students are prepared for High School Classes that will reflect the core classes needed to enhance admission into college. The chart shows both the required and elective courses for our middle school program.

Department	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Christian Studies	<b>Bible 6</b>	<b>Bible 7</b>	<b>Bible 8</b>
English	<b>English 6</b> Creative Pen Book vs. Film	<b>English 7</b> Creative Pen Book vs. Film	<b>English 8</b> <b>Exploration</b> Creative Pen Book vs. Film
Social Studies	<b>History 6</b>	<b>History 7</b>	<b>History 8</b>
Mathematics	<b>Math 6</b>	<b>Math 7</b>	<i><b>Math 8</b></i> <i>or</i> <i><b>Algebra I</b></i>
Science	<b>Science 6</b> Robotics MS STEM Engineering Everywhere	<b>Science 7</b> MS STEM Robotics Engineering Everywhere	<b>Science 8</b> MS STEM Robotics Engineering Everywhere
World Language	<b>Spanish 6</b>	<b>Spanish 7</b>	<b>Spanish 8</b>
Technology	<b>Technology 6</b> 3D Printing	<b>Technology 7</b> 3D Printing	<b>Technology 8</b> 3D Printing
Physical Education	P.E.	P.E.	P.E.
Fine Arts	MS Jewelry MS Painting MS Ceramics MS Comp. generated Art MS Chorus MS Band MS Worship Tech Theater Arts Yearbook	MS Jewelry MS Painting MS Ceramics MS Comp. generated Art MS Chorus MS Band MS Worship Tech Theater Arts Yearbook	MS Jewelry MS Painting MS Ceramics MS Comp. generated Art MS Chorus MS Band MS Worship Tech Theater Arts Yearbook
Classes	<b>Thrive: Study Skills</b>	<b>Healthy Living</b>	<b>Debate and Speech</b>
Warrior Time	WT	WT	WT

**Bold print indicates required courses**  
All electives are not necessarily offered each year.

# List of Course Selections

## Biblical Studies Department

(One year of Bible is required for each year a student attends NCA)

### **Bible 6: Walking in Truth: The Biblical Worldview (Required)**

#### **Grade: 6**

In this study, students will discover Biblical answers to worldview questions about God, the universe, people, truth, and right and wrong. Students will also study the Act of the Apostles focusing on:

- the birth, early growth, and persecution of the church
- the spread of the gospel to the world
- Paul's arrest, trial, and journey to Rome

### **Route 66: Walking in Truth: Competing Worldview (Required)**

#### **Grade: 7**

In this study, students will Evaluate, analyze, and critique Islam, naturalism, and the new spirituality in comparison with Christianity. Students will also study Romans, and 1 and 2 Corinthians focusing on:

- Sin, faith, and salvation
- Freedom from sin, alive in Christ
- Moral issues in the church
- Worship, the Lord's Supper, and spiritual gifts
- The certainty of the resurrection
- Being God's Ambassadors

### **Route 66: Walking in Truth: Christianity in Action (Required)**

#### **Grade: 8**

In this study, students will look at the cultural engagement and life application of the Christian worldview within the disciplines of theology, philosophy, ethics, psychology, sociology, biology, and history. Students will also study the Epistles focusing on:

- Paul's counsel to the churches
- Mentoring a young Christian
- The superiority of Christ
- Faith lived out
- Humility and hope
- Love, faith and the last days





**Exploration (Required)****Grade: 8**

Exploration is a semester-long project where the students are given the opportunity to explore an interest of their choice within the realm of science, whether natural or man-made. Students will be guided through a project that will develop their understanding and skills within their topic. The project consists of a research paper, speech, power point, Biblical reflection, and personal reflection. The purpose of the Eighth Grade Exploration is for students to demonstrate mastery of essential habits and skills necessary to make the transition from middle to high school. Successful completion is necessary for promotion to high school.

**Thrive: Study Skills and Organization (Required Elective)****Grade: 6**

This course will provide students with invaluable tools and strategies to enhance their study habits, time management skills, and organizational abilities. We believe that laying a strong foundation in study skills at the beginning of middle school will set students up for success in their academic endeavors.

**Debate and Speech (Required Elective)****Grade: 8**

This elective will focus on developing students' communication skills, critical thinking abilities, and confidence in public speaking. The art of debate and effective communication is a valuable skill set. The debate topics chosen will develop apologetic skills from a biblical worldview that will serve students well in their academic pursuits and future endeavors. Furthermore, this elective pairs nicely with the 8th Grade Exploration program.

**Creative Pen (Elective)****Grade: 6-8**

Opportunity to express your creativity through words. Students will engage in a variety of projects which will include fiction, poetry and plays drawing inspiration from art, history and more. A portion of the class will include writing and designing MS yearbook pages. Class will include opportunities to write, journal and share their work.

**Book vs. Film (Elective)****Grade: 6-8**

Explore the differences between a story presented in a written work and a story presented in motion picture. Students will read classic stories and watch the movie, looking at how the book and the movie were the same or different in Setting, characters, plot events and resolution. Looking at the elements changed and kept the same, students will look at the elements changed and discuss their effects on the telling of the story as well as on the understanding and enjoyment of the story.

# Math Department

## **Math 6 (Required)**

### **Grade: 6**

The goal of this course is to transition students from elementary school into middle school math by providing consistent review of concepts with an emphasis on learning math to solve real-world problems. Students will learn not only how math principles work but also how to think critically about those principles and construct arguments so they can use the principles in real-world situations.



## **Math 7(Required)**

### **Grade: 7**

This course will begin preparing students for the transition from middle school to high school math with a balanced study of the foundations of mathematics with practical, real-life applications and content to get them thinking and talking about how math can be used to solve problems and serve others.

## **Math 8: Pre- Algebra (Required unless taking Algebra 1)**

### **Grade: 8**

This Course will give students a strong foundation for success in Algebra while connecting their studies to real-world applications and helping them understand the implications of math study from a biblical worldview. *Pre-Algebra* equips students to progress from foundational to advanced mathematical skills and strategies with expanded opportunities for abstract reasoning and real-world problem-solving involving the number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics and probability. This course builds on mathematical principles students learned previously and prepares for their high school math track.

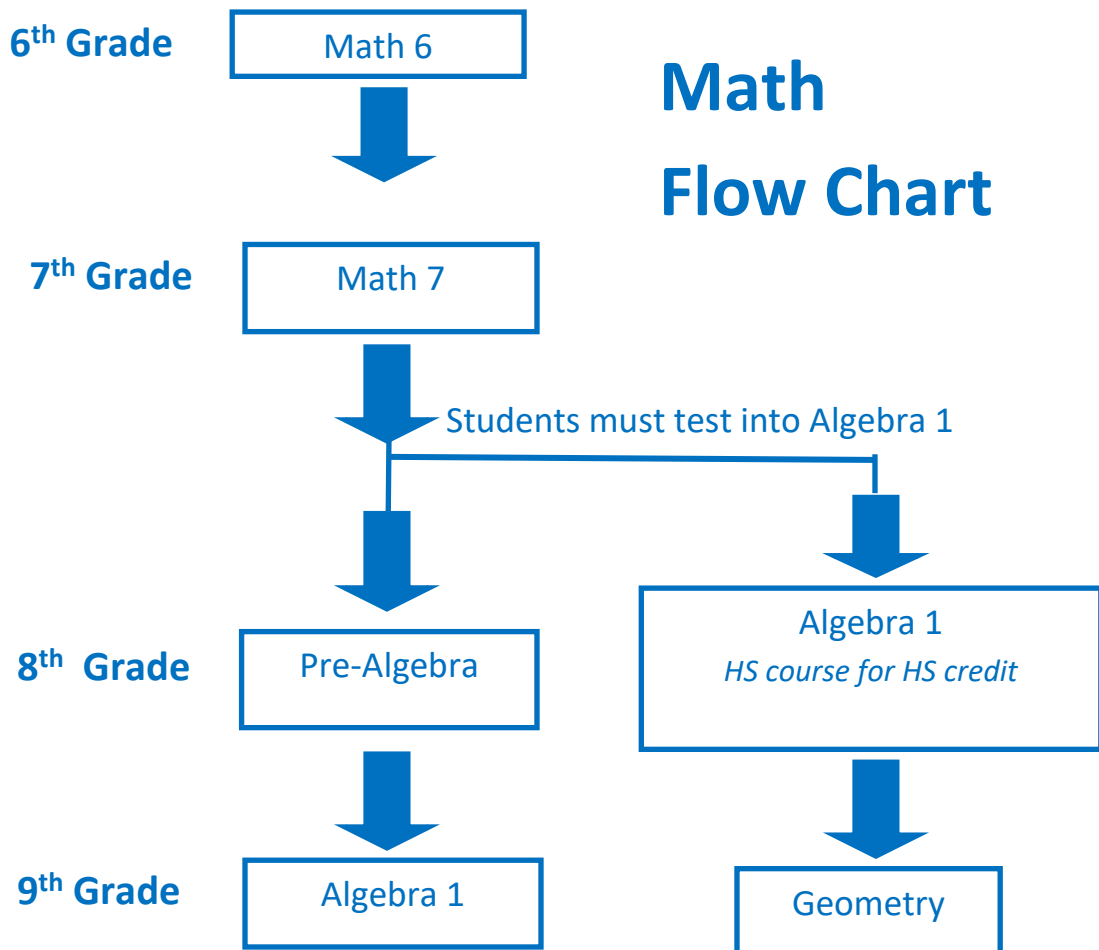
## **Algebra I**

### **1.0 HS credit**

### **Grade: 8**

**Course requirements:** 85% or higher on the placement test, 85% or higher each quarter Math 7, consideration also given to standardized scores and teacher input. A student who decides to take Algebra 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will take it for high school credit, meaning the class and grade will be listed on their HS transcript and the grade will be part of his/her HS Cumulative GPA. In addition, by taking Algebra 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have to take Trigonometry/Pre-calculus in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

This course equips students with the tools and strategies for using and developing algebraic models to solve real-problems within the context of a biblical worldview. Students will write algebraic expressions, describe quantitative relationships, solve real-world problems using linear equations, and understand God's design as foundational to reasoning, modeling, and ethics in mathematics.



## Physical Education Department

**Physical Education** (Elective)

**Grade: 6-8**

Students will participate in a variety of activities, which include components of physical fitness, seasonal team, and individual sports, as well as curriculum-related games, and activities. Students will be required to wear appropriate attire including athletic shoes. Grading will be based upon daily participation and skill improvement as well as positive attitude and effort.



# Science Department

## **Science 6 Earth Science (Required)**

### **Grade: 6**

This course introduces students to the composition and structure of the earth. Earth Science is the scientific study of the contents of the earth including matter, forces, and energy. This course will also provide the student with a study of the geology of the earth along with ocean exploration. God is the source and unity of all knowledge. All truth has its



root in God (Ps 19:1-11; Colossians 1:15-17; 2:2-3). God established consistent laws to govern all aspects of His creation. Students should recognize that God is the author of laws governing His creation and man is the discoverer of God's laws. All life (man, animal, and plant) has been created with specific purposes and glorifies God the Creator and Lord of all (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Romans 1:20; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

## **Science 7 Life Science (Required)**

### **Grade: 7**

This course introduces students to the patterns of life. Life Science is the scientific study of the microorganisms, plants, and animals. This course will also provide the student with a study of the Animal Kingdom along with how organisms interact with the Biosphere. God is the source and unity of all knowledge. All truth has its root in God (Ps 19:1-11; Colossians 1:15-17; 2:2-3). God established consistent laws to govern all aspects of His creation. Students should recognize that God is the author of laws governing His creation and man is the discoverer of God's laws. All life (man, animal, and plant) has been created with specific purposes and glorifies God the Creator and Lord of all (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Romans 1:20; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

## **Science 8 Physical Science (Required)**

### **Grade: 8**

This course introduces students to the structure of matter. Physical Science is the scientific study of the changes in matter including chemical changes, nuclear changes, and solutions. This course will also provide the student with a study of the kinematics of matter along with waves and energy. God is the source and unity of all knowledge. All truth has its root in God (Ps 19:1-11; Colossians 1:15-17; 2:2-3). God established consistent laws to govern all aspects of His creation. Students should recognize that God is the author of laws governing His creation and man is the discoverer of God's laws. All life (man, animal, and plant) has been created with specific purposes and glorifies God the Creator and Lord of all (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Romans 1:20; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

## **Health Living (Required Elective)**

### **Grade: 7**

In this elective, students will explore various aspects of health and wellness, including nutrition, physical fitness, social skills, mental health, and personal hygiene. Encouraging healthy habits early on is crucial for promoting overall well-being and fostering a positive lifestyle. A young person's health is multidimensional. Spiritual health influences physical, mental, and social health, and all of these play an important role in the success students experience in living up to the potential God intends for their lives.

### **Engineering Everywhere (Elective)**

#### **Grade: 6-8**

Creative thinkers in the making. Empower students to become more effective problem solvers. Engaging units with student-centered engineering activities that teach students to think critically as they solve problems in the world around them. Working through challenges students follow an age-appropriate 8-step engineering design process that gets them thinking like engineers. Engineering Everywhere builds 21st century skills as students learn to collaborate, communicate, think critically, and present their findings.

### **MS STEM Engineering (Elective)**

#### **Grade: 6-8**

This course will introduce students to engineering and design/build/test sequence through hands-on activities. Students will have opportunity to work on group projects in three engineering fields – mechanical, electrical and software. Guest speakers and real-life problems will help students make the connection between the activities they are working on in class and real engineering problems.

### **MS Robotics (Elective)**

#### **Grade: 6-8**

MS Robotics is a one semester MS elective. The purpose of this class is to give students an opportunity to build and program robots using Lego Mindstorms with Lego Mindstorm NXT software. This hands-on, fun environment will allow students to use their science, technology, engineering, and math skills while working on challenges and activities for their robots such as creating a robot that can get out of a cave with no interaction or assistance when it is placed at different starting locations. The main goal of this course is for students to have fun and learn about structures and programming.

## **Social Science Department**

### **Ancient History (Required)**

#### **Grade: 6**

This 6<sup>th</sup> grade social science course follows the theme of Creation, Fall, and Redemption throughout the course of history. Student will learn to recognize this pattern in ancient civilizations in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. Students will learn to analyze and evaluate the civilizations they study.

### **World History (Required)**

#### **Grade: 7**

This course will equip students to analyze and evaluate critical world events from a biblical worldview. Students will strengthen their knowledge of social studies by analyzing maps, timelines, and current events. It will prepare students to think historically, as well as geographically. Students will practice applying biblical worldview as they propose solutions to real-world problems. Students can expect an emphasis on the sovereignty of God in human history. We will work to establish a Biblical worldview of human history, in contrast to the secular worldview set forth in society.





## **American History (Required)**

### **Grade: 8**

This course prepares students to become discerning citizens who learn from the successes and failures of the past to make wise decisions for today. They will survey the major events that have shaped American history, paying special attention to the cultural shifts and influences starting with the discovery of the New World to present day. Students will examine the distinctiveness of American values and government and how events have shaped our nation today. The course will strive to challenge students, equipping them with the tools, thinking strategies, and content that will help make them successful in high school and beyond.



# **Technology**

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Technology (Required)**

### **Grade:6**

This course will focus on basic computer skills and responsible computer use. Students will develop a basic understanding of Internet safety, ethical computer use, keyboarding, opening and closing software files, Office 365, accessing and saving to OneDrive, copying and pasting files or text, copyright laws and searching the Internet. This course will cover basic and intermediate skills and shortcuts using, but not limited to Microsoft Office 365.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Technology (Required)**

### **Grade:7**

This course will focus on basic computer skills and responsible computer use. Students will develop a basic understanding of Internet safety, ethical computer use, keyboarding, opening and closing software files, Office 365, accessing and saving to OneDrive, copying and pasting files or text, copyright laws and searching the Internet. This course will cover basic and intermediate skills and shortcuts using, but not limited to Microsoft Office 365.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Technology (Required)**

### **Grade:8**

This course will focus on basic computer skills and responsible computer use. Students will develop a basic understanding of Internet safety, ethical computer use, keyboarding, opening and closing software files, Office 365, accessing and saving to OneDrive, copying and pasting files or text, copyright laws and searching the Internet. This course will cover basic and intermediate skills and shortcuts using, but not limited to Microsoft Office 365. A special focus of the eighth grade course will be ensuring all students have the skills necessary to complete Eighth Grade Exploration project and to make the successful transition to High School.

## **3D Printing (Elective)**

### **Grade: 6-8**

This course emphasizes the development of a design. Students use computer software to produce, analyze and evaluate models of projects solutions. Students study design concepts of form and function and use state-of-the-art technology to translate conceptual design into reproducible products. Students sketch within computer software to design models, apply the design process to solve problems, utilize mathematics (density, surface area, inertia, gyration radii and more) to evaluate parametric models; and explore quality control, marketing, and related career opportunities. Display portfolios are also developed.

# Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts Department

**Theatre Arts** (Elective) (not offered every year)

**Grade: 6-8**

Students will play theatre improvisation games, give speeches and act. There are opportunities to create original work, allowing students to have fun and be creative while performing in skits. Developing confidence in speaking and performance will be a focus. Projects include a demonstration speech, commercial, fairytale, an occasion speech, and story theatre.

## ART

**MS Painting** (Elective)

**Grade: 6-8**

This course is an introduction to basic painting styles and various painting media. Students will gain a working knowledge of color mixing, color schemes, color harmonies, brushwork, and the principles and elements of design.



**MS Jewelry Making** (Elective)

**Grade: 6-8**

This course is an introduction to construction and fabrication techniques in jewelry (sawing, linking, forming, etc.) Students will also be exposed to basic jewelry terminology. Following the safety rules and procedures including the proper use of tools and materials will be mandatory. All students are required to have appropriate eye protection (safety glasses). Students will be responsible for material costs incurred beyond those provided.

**MS Ceramics** (Elective)

**Grade: 6-8**

This ceramics course will introduce students to the beauty of ceramics. We will focus on three basic methods of hand building, pinch, slab, and coil techniques. Students will create functional and decorative clay pieces while learning various ways to manipulate clay. A variety of glazing and decoration techniques will be introduced as well. Students will be able to independently create a variety of pieces. Past favorites have been coffee mugs and vases. The class will end with an opportunity to learn how to make a project on an electric wheel.

**MS Computer Generated Art Exploration** (Elective)

**Grade: 6-8**

This course is an introduction to digital art. Students will begin to create digitally generated images using Adobe Creative Suites. Students will be asked to explore their creative potential through works that may reflect their own personal interests.

\*\*Art Classes are offered on a rotating basis



## Music



### **MS Band (Elective)**

#### **Grade: 6-8**

*Course Note: Audition or Director Approval*

Band is an intermediate performing ensemble that consists of 6th-8th grade students. Students will learn instrument techniques, music writing, and music theory. Band performs at all school concerts and off campus performances. Each semester two to four pieces of musical repertoire are selected to perfect for performances. Each selection requires the study and comprehension of scales, key signatures, musical terms, dynamics, rhythms, and theory that will be covered in that semester's time frame.

### **MS Vocal Music (Elective)**

#### **Grade: 6-8**

*Course Note: Audition or Director Approval*

Students will learn healthy singing techniques, how to read music and learn ear training. Students will explore their vocal range and study a variety of choral music. Music history and appreciation will also be explored. Participation in the Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, and school musical is a required part of the course. The goal of the class is to develop competent musicians, and to become comfortable with their changing voices.

# World Language Department

## **World Language 6 -Spanish (Required)**

### **Grade: 6**

Sixth grade World Language builds upon the material learned in elementary school. Students will explore the use of signs and symbols, language systems, language families, numbers, colors, alphabets, basic everyday phrases, and culture. Students will study Spanish. Students develop speaking, listening, and writing skills that allow them to communicate basic concepts about themselves, their families, their daily activities and likes and dislikes. The class meets two/three times a week throughout the year.



## **World Language 7 -Spanish (Required)**

### **Grade: 7**

Seventh grade World Language builds upon the material learned in 6th grade. Students will explore the use of signs and symbols, language systems, language families, numbers, colors, alphabets, basic everyday phrases, and culture. Students will study Spanish. Students develop speaking, listening, and writing skills that allow them to communicate basic concepts about themselves, their families, daily activities and likes and dislikes. Students also learn the grammar for basic verb conjugations. The class meets two/three times a week throughout the year.

## **World Language Spanish 8 (Required)**

### **Grade: 8**

This is for students serious about learning a world language. Students will listen, speak, read, and write in Spanish. The basic sounds of the language are presented, and fundamental grammar is introduced. Vocabulary study focuses on common words, phrases, and expressions that relate to aspects of everyday life. Cultural differences and lifestyles will be explored to enable students to better understand the complex, multi-ethnic world in which they live. The class meets two/three times a week throughout the year.