

# SOUTHWEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2022-2023

Grades 7-8

### BIBLE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

The goal of the Bible Department at Southwest Christian School is to encourage students in learning God's word, loving God's word, and living God's word in an effort to grow and strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ.

*"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 3:14

#### **7TH GRADE BIBLE: OLD TESTAMENT**

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

Students will use multiple intelligences to explore the relevance of the Old Testament in their lives today. This differentiated study offers students the opportunity to creatively expand their understanding of the people, places, and events of the Old Testament as they strengthen their personal relationship with Christ.

#### **8TH GRADE BIBLE: NEW TESTAMENT**

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

Students will explore the relevance of the New Testament in their lives today. This differentiated study offers students the opportunity to creatively expand their understanding of the people, places, and events of the New Testament and strengthen their personal relationship with Christ.

# ENGLISH

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The English Department of Southwest Christian School seeks to assist students in their discovery of God's truth in the language of literature. Students will be empowered linguistically to succeed not only at the university level but also will receive the foundation that will enable them to serve as Christian leaders throughout the world.

*"Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants."* Deuteronomy 32:2

## ENGLISH 7

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

Students will refine previously learned knowledge and skills by reading widely in a variety of classic, contemporary, and informational works, working together to develop their abilities to understand texts and think abstractly and critically about what they have read. Vocabulary study will be ongoing. Writing instruction will include the development of written communication skills, and students will compose narrative, expository, persuasive, and argumentative essays in MLA format.

## ENGLISH 8

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

Students in English 8 will strive for proficiency in oral and written language, increase written and spoken vocabulary, compose grammatically correct sentences, read and analyze literature, and write opinion, analytical, and persuasive essays in MLA format.

## ENGLISH 8 – HONORS

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

Students in English 8 Honors will vigorously explore literature from various time periods using both classic and contemporary texts. They will demonstrate understanding through discussions, presentations, and written essays. This course is designed to provide a learning environment in which students will be exposed to an accelerated variety of challenges to develop their talents and reach their highest potential.

# MATHEMATICS

## MISSION STATEMENT:

First, students will be guided to understand the order of the universe and realize how God reveals His order through the universal language of mathematics. Second, students will acquire a solid understanding of mathematics and the ability to apply it effectively. Third, we will strive to develop students' abilities to reason logically with analysis while strengthening their critical thinking skills. Finally, it is our desire to equip our students with the tools and strategies necessary to be lifelong learners and Christian leaders in the world.

*"It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out." Proverbs 25:2*

## 7TH GRADE MATH

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

7th Grade Math introduces the fundamental principles in algebra with emphasis placed on understanding and application of order of operations, integers, variables, expressions, and equations. Problem-solving strategies are utilized throughout the course. Emphasis is placed on solving and graphing equations and inequalities; formulas and concepts in geometry; ratios, proportions, and percents; and probability.

## 7TH PRE-ALGEBRA

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

7th Pre-Algebra is a transitional course designed to move students from the intermediate level of mathematics to the secondary level. This course will help to transform concrete thinking skills into abstract, mathematical problem-solving skills. The introduction of formulas containing constants and multiple variables is incorporated with several units of solid geometry and the manipulation of percents and fractions. Students will apply a wide range of mathematical skills to real-world situations.

## 8TH PRE-ALGEBRA

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

8th Pre-Algebra is designed to help students learn basic algebra concepts such as integers, equations, proportional reasoning, functions, graphing, powers, polynomials, and factoring. Students will be given the opportunity to make connections from concrete models to abstract concepts. They will review arithmetic and geometric skills, communicate the understanding of algebra, and learn to see the practical value of algebra.

## **ALGEBRA I**

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

*High School Credits: 1*

Students lay the foundation for solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, and solving systems of linear equations. Other topics include adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing polynomials; factoring, solving, and graphing quadratics; and exploring rational and radical expressions and equations.

## **ALGEBRA I – HONORS**

*Grade Level: 7, 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

*High School Credits: 1*

Students lay the foundation for solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, and solving systems of linear equations. Other topics include adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing polynomials; factoring, solving, and graphing quadratics; and exploring rational and radical expressions and equations.

## **GEOMETRY – HONORS**

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

*High School Credits: 1*

Geometry Honors provides students an opportunity to study zero-, one-, two- and three-dimensional geometry, to use geometric models, to apply the properties of figures in problem-solving situations, and to use appropriate technology to solve geometric problems.

# SCIENCE

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the science department at Southwest Christian School is two-fold: to lead students towards a greater understanding of God's creation through inquiry, analysis, experimentation, and mathematical manipulations; and to prepare students for success in college by utilizing state-of-the-art technology, providing differentiated learning experiences, and maintaining high expectations.

*“Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”* Ephesians 4:15-16

## SCIENCE 7 – INTRODUCTION INTO PREP SCIENCE I

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

This course is a hands-on study of the structure and function of living organisms and their anatomical/physiological relationships with each other as designed by God. The class utilizes concepts in life science, forensics, and earth science to provide foundational scientific skills for success in high-school courses. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, data analysis, experimentation, measurement, and the connection between scientific concepts and the world around us from a Christian perspective.

## SCIENCE 8 – INTRODUCTION TO PREPARATORY SCIENCE II

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

This course utilizes hands-on learning methods and emphasizes experimental design and critical thinking. The course includes the study of the fundamental properties of lab practices, astronomy, motion, acceleration, simple machines, the periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, cells, heredity, DNA, bones, and muscles. The goal of the course is to increase students' scientific knowledge and understanding of their world from a Christian perspective.

## SCIENCE 8 HONORS – INTRODUCTION TO PREPARATORY SCIENCE II

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

Science 8 Honors - Introduction to Preparatory Science II is designed to engage students in scientific exploration and critical thinking while studying broad topics in biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental science. Students will experience an appropriate level of academic rigor that prepares them for high school science. As a Christ-centered class, students will learn science from the perspective of God's creative and intelligent design.

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Social Studies Department of Southwest Christian School is to equip students, through critical thinking, challenging assessments, and respectful discourse, to participate in God's global mission to love and serve the world.

*God began by making one person, and from Him came all the different people who live everywhere in the world. God decided exactly when and where they must live. God wanted them to look for Him and perhaps search all around for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any of us: 'We live in Him. We walk in Him. We are in Him' ... 'For we are His children.'* Acts 17:25-28

## UNITED STATES HISTORY

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

This course provides a survey of the history of the United States from its inception to the Reconstruction. Students will examine major periods and themes in American history such as democratic ideals, citizenship, the impact of the individual, diversity and unity, immigration and migration, expansion, and science and technology. In addition, the course includes the dimensions of geography, economics, government, and culture.

## WORLD GEOGRAPHY

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

*High School Credits: 1*

World Geography studies the physical and human character of the earth. This course will examine God's sovereign hand in a complex web of cultures and communities. Students will explore the six elements of geography: location, places and regions, physical systems, human systems, environment and society, and uses of geography. In addition, they examine how those themes work together to define culture. There is a specific emphasis on location as students will be required to map the nations of the world from memory. Finally, students will examine the political, economic, religious, social, intellectual, and artistic components of the 8 major world regions: the United States and Canada, Latin America, Europe/Russia, Southwest Asia and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and Australia.

# WORLD LANGUAGE

## MISSION STATEMENT:

God loves all of humanity, no matter the race, nation, language, or culture, and wants all people to be reconciled to Him. The mission of the World Language Department is to develop students' abilities to communicate in languages other than English, to understand other cultures, and to share the word of God in those languages being in communion with the Great Commission:

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:18-20

## INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 1 semester*

This is a one-semester Mandarin Chinese course designed for students who have little or no previous knowledge of the Chinese language and culture. The emphasis in this course is to develop students' understanding of Chinese culture and people through engaging Chinese language learning and helping to heighten their awareness of culture and people of the world through a Christian lens. Students will be introduced to basic knowledge about Chinese geography, philosophy, customs, and festivals. This course will also introduce students to the Chinese phonetic system (Pinyin), approximately 35 Chinese radical characters, and basic conversational and writing skills.

## CHINESE I

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

*High School Credits: 1*

This beginning course in Mandarin Chinese is designed for students who have little or no prior exposure to the Chinese language and is based upon the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Proficiency Standards using the principles of Comprehensible Input. The emphasis in this course is to lay a solid foundation in comprehension and communication proficiency with a focus on the early stages of students' fundamental listening and reading skills. In addition, this course will also cover the Chinese phonetic system (Pin-yin), basic Chinese characters, basic conversational and writing skills, and will include an introduction to Chinese geography, history, philosophy, and festivals. The course will also seek to foster students' understanding of Chinese culture, heightening awareness of culture and the people of the world through a Christian lens.

## **CHINESE I HONORS**

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

*High School Credits: 1*

This honors elementary Chinese language and culture course is designed for motivated students who have little knowledge of Chinese language and culture and is based upon the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Proficiency Standards using the principles of Comprehensible Input. The emphasis of this course is to lay a solid foundation in comprehension and communication proficiency with a focus on the early stages of students' fundamental listening and reading skills. In addition, this course will also cover the Chinese phonetic system (Pin-yin), basic Chinese characters, basic conversational and writing skills, and will include an introduction to Chinese geography, history, philosophy, and festivals. The course will also seek to foster students' understanding of Chinese culture, heightening awareness of culture and the people of the world through a Christian lens.

## **INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH**

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 1 semester*

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the Spanish language and culture. Students will develop communication skills in speaking, listening, writing, and reading in Spanish. Students will strengthen their proficiency through the use of comprehensible input, which uses continuous reinforcement and recycling of vocabulary. Students will continue to expand their view of the Spanish world with heightened cultural awareness and enriched cultural knowledge in order to enhance their understanding of the people of the world through a Christian lens.

## **SPANISH I**

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

*High School Credits: 1*

The purpose of this course is to develop communication skills of speaking, listening, writing, and reading in Spanish with grammar and new vocabulary. Students will begin to be proficient through the use of comprehensible input, which uses continuous reinforcement and recycling of vocabulary. Students will expand their view of the Spanish world with heightened cultural awareness and enriched cultural knowledge in order to enhance their understanding of the people of the world through a Christian lens.



## SPANISH I HONORS

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

*High School Credits: 1*

The purpose of this course is to develop communication skills of speaking, listening, writing, and reading in Spanish with grammar and new vocabulary. Students will begin to be proficient through the use of comprehensible input, which uses continuous reinforcement and recycling of vocabulary. Being an honors class, students will go deeper into the language with written and oral expression. Students will expand their view of the Spanish world with heightened cultural awareness and enriched cultural knowledge in order to enhance their understanding of the people of the world through a Christian lens.

# FINE ARTS

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The Southwest Christian School Fine Arts Department develops an appreciation of the arts from process to product. We seek to awaken students to the God-given talents in them, educate them in the disciplines of the arts, and build on our legacy of excellence with Christ at our center.

*“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”* Colossians 3:16

*“He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers.”* Exodus 35:35

## **CHOIR 7 (Fine Arts Rotation)**

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 1 quarter*

7th Grade Choir is designed to utilize all basic choral skills learned from 5th and 6th-Grade Choir. Students will continue to develop their God-given musical gifts through group rehearsal, intermediate music reading exercises, learning to communicate through song, and exploring various music genres. This is a performance-based class, and students will be expected to perform in one music concert.

## **CHOIR 8**

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 1 Semester*

8th Grade Choir is designed to utilize all intermediate choral skills learned from 7th-Grade Choir. Students will continue to develop their God-given musical gifts through group rehearsal, sight-singing, aural skills, competitions, and applied music theory. This is a performance-based class, and students will be expected to perform in two music concerts and other possible short school performances.

## **INTERMEDIATE BAND I**

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

Intermediate Band I is designed to educate students in basic music theory as well as the mechanics of their chosen instrument. Students will increase their understanding and appreciation of wind band literature through individual study and performance and will work together to create a cohesive musical ensemble that culminates in public performances. No prior band experience is necessary to join Intermediate Band I.

## **INTERMEDIATE BAND II**

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

Intermediate Band II will utilize and build upon the basic music theory and performance skills that were learned in either Beginning Band I/II or Intermediate Band I. Students will continue to develop their God-given musical gifts through sight-reading, competition-level solos or small ensembles, and applied music theory. Multiple performance opportunities will be provided through pep rallies and concerts.

## **PRAISE MINISTRIES**

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 1 Semester*

Students in 8th Grade Praise Ministries will use their God-given gifts to communicate the message of Christ by leading middle school chapel services, developing spiritual leadership, organizing and/or participating in service opportunities, and developing intermediate music-reading skills (musicians only). Instrumentalists who have a basic understanding of their instrument, vocalists with minimal singing experience, and students interested in audio/visual technology may audition for Praise Ministries. Students may enroll in the course based on an audition process held the previous spring.

## **ART 7 (Fine Arts Rotation)**

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 1 quarter*

This course will include the study of the elements of art, including drawing and painting techniques through multiple media using both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art. The arts serve as the primary signature of a culture, carrying our individual and collective images and ideas from one generation to another. This course will explore the function of visual arts in the community and recognize historical and individual artistic history and style. This course is designed for beginning-level students to create an awareness and appreciation for art.

## **ART 8**

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 1 semester*

This course will include the study of the elements of art, including drawing and painting techniques through multiple media using both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art. The arts serve as the primary signature of a culture, carrying our individual and collective images and ideas from one generation to another. This course will explore the function of visual arts in the community and recognize historical and individual artistic history and style. This course is designed for beginning-level students to create an awareness and appreciation for art.

## **THEATRE ARTS 7 (Fine Arts Rotation)**

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 1 quarter*

Theatre Arts 7 is designed to educate students in the basic aspects of Theatre Arts, exploring the impact of theatre on our culture, our personal lives, and our relationship with God. This is a performance-based class. It will focus on individual participation, the process of collaboration within the class, and developing a standard of integrity and excellence in process, production, and performance.

## **THEATRE ARTS 8**

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 1 semester*

Theatre Arts 8 is designed to educate students in all aspects of Theatre Arts. We will explore the impact of all Fine Arts on our culture, our personal lives, and our relationships with God. This class is built upon individual participation, the process of the class as an ensemble, and an overall standard of integrity in production and performance.

# TECHNOLOGY

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Technology Department at Southwest Christian School is to develop students' ability to use technology in a way that both honors God and furthers their academic and professional pursuits. We strive to build students' awareness of digital citizenship issues as well as their ability to use technology efficiently in many different contexts through the use of hands-on training, project-based learning, and critical thinking.

*“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* Ephesians 2:10

## TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS (Fine Arts Rotation)

*Grade Level: 7*

*Length of Course: 1 quarter*

In this survey course, students will engage in an innovative, hands-on curriculum that provides real-world learning opportunities for careers in science and technology. During their time in this course, students will rotate through three modules, Video Production, 3D Modeling and Printing, and Robotics, providing students with relevant real-world applications of STEM concepts while also sparking their interest in various STEM fields and careers. Assessments will be student-driven and project-based, allowing students to demonstrate and apply learning in a collaborative, creative manner.

## ROBOTICS

*Grade Level: 8*

*Length of Course: 1 semester*

Robotics is a project-based course in which students explore the design, programming, and fabrication of robotics equipment and technology. Students will explore the applications of robots in industry and understand the implications of robotics in society. Students will study and build basic robotic systems using VEX IQ Robotics Systems. Students will study mechanics, programming, electronics, and the design and applications of each system in robotics design, and they will research a cutting edge application of robotics technology in industry and present their findings in a professional presentation. Students will use their knowledge and skills of the design and production of a robot to compete in an end of semester class robotics challenge.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of Southwest Christian Athletics is to advance the Kingdom by glorifying God through sport and competition. We feel that when athletics is kept in the right perspective, our student-athletes are allowed to develop without fear of failure and push to reach their full potential. It is without that fear, a learned push for excellence, and a heart for service that they become equipped to grow into young men and women who live fully for God in a rapidly-changing world.

*“Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men.” Colossians 3:23*

## ATHLETICS

*Grade Level: 7, 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

The SCS Middle School Athletics course specifically comes with the opportunity to participate in programming that includes 6 different sports for boys and girls.

# ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Academic Support Services department is to encourage and support students both academically and spiritually, while equipping them with the tools to become confident, responsible, and successful learners.

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13*

## **READING (7TH AND 8TH)**

*Grade Level: 7, 8*

*Length of Course: 2 semesters*

Reading 7/8 provides support and reinforcement for the skills taught in the academic curricula through enrollment in the Learning Lab. Students explore personal academic strengths and weaknesses, learning styles, and strategies for academic success. Topics include organization, time management, listening and note-taking, active reading, test preparation and anxiety, and effective research skills. Fine Arts or World Language may be waived for students taking Reading in middle school. An additional fee is required.