

NorthCreek Academy

Eighth Grade

Bible

In our eighth grade year, Bible picks up where it left off in seventh grade. We will navigate through volume two of Character Quest, and students will continue to examine their own hearts by the light of God's word. Each week or two, a new character trait is the topic of study (Integrity, Kindness, Contentment, and Forgiveness, to name a few). Students will be taken through a variety of creative experiences including a study of Scripture, definitions and descriptions. They study the importance of the trait, the cautions regarding its negative counterpart, and practical applications to everyday living. Every other week, students will memorize scripture related to the topic at hand.

Language Arts

The Dialectic Stage in Language Arts is a time when students should be “digging deeper” into the material, using critical thinking. Faith is integrated with learning, and students are encouraged to be good stewards of the gifts and talents that God has given them. In the eighth grade, students read core literature, including: *The Miracle Worker*, *Macbeth*, *Johnny Tremain*, *The Hiding Place*, and *The Screwtape Letters*. At the end of the school year, eighth graders perform a student-led production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Literature is discussed in a variety of ways, including dialectical journals, short answer essays, fishbowl discussions, debate, creative writing, projects, and analytical essays. Students are taught vocabulary both through literature and through the workbook, *Vocabulary Workshop Level C* by Sadlier-Oxford. Vocabulary lessons are reinforced through daily usage, oral presentations, and creative writing, as well as through weekly assessments. The Shurley Grammar Method continues the comprehensive grammar program, and students are expected to apply what they have learned, by using correct punctuation, spelling, and grammar in their writing.

History/Social Studies

In 8th grade history and social studies, our focus is on the United States from the earliest colonial roots in the 1600s through its place on the world-stage of WWII, with forays into modern-day current events. A sampling of aspects of the study of the U.S. includes: founding, expansion, civics and government, economics, leaders, wars, demographics, burgeoning cultural identity. Appreciation for, and increasing involvement in U.S. citizenship is a recurring and underlying theme for the year, with frequent and sustained reference to Christianity as the foundation and source of any and all success our nation, its citizens and its leaders have experienced! Building on the now-established knowledge and habits with regards to discerning research, oral participation, increasingly expressive written work, hands-on projects and role-playing, and integration with literature and science, 8th graders become prepared for success in high school history studies, and for active and informed participation in their country's governance in the future as well. Students have the opportunity during either their 7th or 8th grade year to visit Washington D.C. with NorthCreek.

Math

In 8th grade we learn all the concepts and skills of an Algebra 1 course, including solving equations, inequalities and systems, multiplying and factoring polynomials, and graphing and writing equations of lines and other functions. We also learn to apply all of these concepts to problem solving situations. In 8th grade we study formal logic, learning techniques to build strong arguments as well as building and analyzing syllogisms.

Science

In 8th grade science we study physical science which involves learning about the patterns, order and predictability of the universe that God created. It involves looking at matter and its structure, learning about the atoms, chemistry, motion and forces. In January we do a unit on the Universe, as we learn about the heavens and how they “declare the glory of God”. Students will be involved in creating an Exploratorium for the entire school for a day, sharing their knowledge of the various laws and concepts they have learned through the first half of the year. The students will build catapults, design roller coasters, set up race tracks, race dominoes and observe the heavens. They will also be involved in the JH Science Fair at NCA as well as given the opportunity to participate in a County Science Fair. Every other year we head to Science Camp for a week of science at Mt. Hermon in the Santa Cruz Mountains with our 7th and 8th graders.

Logic

In 8th grade Logic, students learn to defend their faith in a reasonable and rational way. We move from approaches to avoid in defending our positions to learning techniques that will help us support and defend our position. We start with the common topics of definitions, testimony, comparison, relationship, and circumstance. This information helps students in other subjects and assignments such as supporting a thesis, supporting a science fair hypothesis and debate. After that we move to formal logic and learn to construct 3 statement syllogisms and determine whether they are valid. Logic is taught to help students think critically.