

# Hillcrest Christian Middle School

## Graduation Requirements and Course Descriptions

### **Eighth Grade Graduation Requirements**

To satisfy requirements for a diploma at the end of the eighth grade, a student

- A. must satisfactorily complete the prescribed course of study for Hillcrest Christian School;
- B. must earn at least 65 credits in the eighth grade (each semester course passed results in 5 credits); must receive a semester grade of D or better in both semesters of all core courses (Math, Science, English, Social Studies); and
- C. must have been enrolled in Hillcrest for two semesters of eighth grade.

For an eighth grade student to participate in the graduation ceremony, all of the above requirements must be met; all tuition, day care charges, and fees must be paid including the graduation fee; all books must be returned or paid for as well as all damages to books; and all graduates are required to attend graduation practice.

If there is a one-semester course that must be made up (English, Math, Social Studies, Science), the student will receive the diploma cover at the ceremony; however, the diploma will not be granted until that course is made up. Students who fail a core course at the end of the semester will be required to make it up in a program approved by Hillcrest. Failing both semesters of a core course may affect promotion to the next grade and/or graduation. Students receiving more than two failing grades in a semester may be disenrolled.

### **Bible**

The Bible curriculum promotes the understanding, interpretation, and application of biblical truth. The faculty seeks to help every student develop a world view in which the principles and values of the Bible are applied to the whole of life. Additionally, the development of Christian character and basic Bible knowledge content will equip students for service in the local church and effective witness for Christ in whatever God-honoring careers they pursue.

Bible is required every semester of attendance at Hillcrest Christian Middle School.

### Bible 6

Christ and My Life

Grade 6

2 semesters 10 credits

The material in this course presents three strands of instruction; a survey of the New Testament; an in-depth, personalized study of popular passages; and application of these Scriptures to important issues faced by students. The focus is on personal Bible study and the understanding of principles which can guide all of life's decisions. The curriculum is fun, but challenging; convicting, but refreshing, as students receive a foundation of Biblical content with strong application in their personal lives.

**Text:** *Christ and My Life* ISBN: 1583311149  
*NIV Bible*

### Bible 7

Christ and My Life  
2 semesters 10 credits

Grade 7

This course is designed to provide students with a basic knowledge of the Word of God better preparing them for the rich truths of Scripture. A fast moving Bible Survey is integrated with personal application and an emphasis on God's power. Students visit all 66 books of the Bible, from creation to the cross to the consummation of time.

**Text:** *Route 66* ISBN: 1929784309  
*NIV Bible*

### Bible 8

Life of Christ from the Book of John  
2 semesters 10 credits

Grade 8

A journey through the Gospel of John designed to develop not only a deeper knowledge of Christ, but also a deeper relationship with him. In this course, students will learn about Jesus in the context of the culture and land of His time.

**Text:** *The Life of Christ from the Gospel of John* ISBN: 0-971949123  
*NIV Bible*

## **English/Language Arts**

The English Department offers classes which are heterogeneously grouped.. The formal writing as a process is introduced and reinforced throughout the years of instruction. Spelling, grammar, vocabulary, and usage are taught and integrated into the context of the core literature. As God communicates through His Word, He has given man the ability of and love for communication. God's Word not only communicates His love for man, but gives encouragement to communicate effectively and truthfully as well. At HCS we strive to develop the ability to communicate effectively, accurately, responsibly and truthfully as well as the ability to evaluate the structure and meaning of literature from a Biblical point of view.

**Credit Requirements:** Students must earn 30 credits for graduation.

### English 6

2 semesters 10 credits

Grade 6

Students work to perfect reading and language skills through an integrated curriculum of reading, composition, spelling, grammar, and punctuation. They are taught introductory research skills. An anthology and literary works are used as reading texts. Journals are used for personal reflection.

**Text:**

Summer Reading

*Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor ISBN 9780140384512

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* ISBN 9780553211283

School Year

*Elements of Literature Intro Course* ISBN 9780030672774

*English Writing/Gram. 6* ISBN 9781591663942

*The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings ISBN 9780020449317

*Captains Courageous* by Rudyard Kipling ISBN 9780553211900

## English 7

Grade 7

2 semesters 10 credits

Students work on oral and written communication skills. Through the process of instructing, modeling, and student responding, progress will be measured and encouragement given so that each student will attain the highest level of personal success. Topics covered in grammar and composition will be: paragraph construction, punctuation, capitalization, sentence patterns and structure, parts of speech, the writing process, and study skills. Literature will look at a variety of materials, including poetry, drama, short stories, novels, and fables. Students will experience literary terms, comprehension, vocabulary development, and book reports.

### **Text:**

Summer Reading

*Holes* by Louis Sachar ISBN 9780440228592

*The Pearl* by John Steinbeck ISBN 9780140177374

School Year

*Elements of Literature Course 1* ISBN 0-03-067278-3

*English Writing/Gram. 7* ISBN 9781591663683

*Elements of Style* Strunk and White ISBN 9780143112723

*Call of the Wild* by Jack London ISBN 9780439227148

*Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank ISBN 9780553296983

Any 2 Narnia Books by C.S. Lewis (But not Lion, Witch, Wardrobe)

## English 8

Grade 8

2 semesters 10 credits

This course has two strong emphases. There is a strong study of the grammatical details that go into the writing process. Writing in clear sentences, using a variety of sentence structures, spelling correctly, and adhering to the rules of grammar learned in class all lead to paragraph development. The writing instruction culminates in a thorough research paper. Students are encouraged to develop the habit of reading, as well as strengthening their reading skills and comprehension, by being exposed to a variety of novels. Included also is a unit on poetry and short fiction for developing creativity, writing, thinking, and reading skills.

### **Text:**

Summer Reading

*The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway ISBN 9780684801223

*The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin ISBN 9780142401200

School Year

*Elements of Literature Course 2* ISBN 0-03-067279-1

*English Writing/Gram. 8* ISBN 9781591663621

*Elements of Style* Strunk and White ISBN 9780143112723 (Same as 7<sup>th</sup> grade)

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell ISBN 9780451526342

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry ISBN 9780440237686

*Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes ISBN 9780156030304

## **Fine Arts**

The Arts have been man's greatest means of expression since creation. The Bible has many references to music, speech, drama and art. Psalm 33 says that we should perform skillfully with great enthusiasm. These skills come from training and rehearsal. HCS believes that God given

abilities should be developed to the highest degree, in order that God will be glorified. By participating in these classes, students develop an appreciation and understanding of the Fine Arts.

### Middle School Art

Grade 8

2 semesters 10 credits

This course covers the elements and principles of art and explores the many different mediums used in art such as; charcoal, paint, pencil, watercolor, marker and ink. The class also covers different drawing styles and theories, the study of perspective, point of view, color, line, shape and form, balance and composition. The goal of the class is to provide an enjoyable experience doing artwork and craft projects, as well as experience a variety of subject matter.

### Choir 6

Grade 6

2 semesters 10 credits

Students will learn the basics of singing in a choir. This includes reading musical notation, rhythm, and basic part singing. Students taking Choir develop musicianship and specific performance skills. Activities in this class create the development of quality repertoire that is appropriate in difficulty and range of the students. Instruction is designed so that students are enabled to connect, examine, imagine, define, try, extend, refine, and integrate music study into other subject areas. Students develop the ability to understand and convey the composer's intent in order to connect the performer with the audience. A choir outfit is required. An audition is necessary for this group.

### Choir 7-8

Grades 7-8

2 semesters 10 credits (may be repeated for credit)

The Choir is comprised of students in grades 7-8. Performance is the main focus of this course but incorporated with elements of music theory and music appreciation. Performances include chapel programs for elementary students and retirement centers. Students prepare for major concerts, and competitions. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir provides for the expansion of the skills learned in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir. Students will be singing in 3 – 4 parts. Phrasing, dynamics, tone production, intonation and diction are the performance skills that are introduced and perfected in this class. This is the training ground for the high school level performers. A choir outfit is required. An audition is necessary for this group.

### MS Drama

Grade 8

2 semesters 10 credits

This class is designed to introduce the middle school student to a variety of drama elements such as characterization, blocking, voice inflection, projection and creative thinking. The class will perform at least once before an audience. The course also includes a brief look at the backstage craft including costuming, makeup and set construction.

**Text:** Exploring Theatre ISBN: 0-07-861614-X

## **Mathematics**

Students at HCS are instructed in the skills of mathematics in order to train their minds to use logical, sequential thought processes, to provide opportunities to acquire advanced mathematical skills and therefore to function as responsible members of society. Using these gifts they will serve and glorify the Lord. Students will display competence in knowledge, comprehension and application.

## **Graduation Requirements:**

Students must earn 30 credits for middle school graduation.

Middle School Math Course 1

Grade 6

2 semesters 10 credits

This course focuses on numerical reasoning and provides a strong foundation for algebra readiness. The course is an integration of math concepts with real life application. Topics covered include whole numbers, graphs and data, connecting arithmetic to algebra, decimals, measurement, patterns and number theory, adding and subtracting fractions, multiplying and dividing fractions, geometry of polygons, integers, ratio, proportion, percent and probability.

**Text:** *Mathematics Course 1* ISBN: 0131339907

Middle School Math Course 2

Grade 7

2 semesters 10 credits

This course is designed to answer the question "When will we ever use this?" It provides skills and applications from statistics, probability and geometry in the world around us. Early in the course it begins preparing the student for the challenge of algebra. Throughout the year students continue to sharpen basic skills in functions, decimals and percentages. Students learn how these concepts will be used in algebra. Combined with Numerical Reasoning this course provides the readiness skills to prepare students for entrance into algebra.

**Text:** *Mathematics Course 2* ISBN: 0131339907

Pre Algebra

Grade 7

2 semesters 10 credits

This course is designed to prepare the student for success in Algebra one by emphasizing abstract math skills and logical thinking processes. The majority of the course work involves equation solving, properties of algebra, operations of integers learning to write and solve algebraic equations. Special attention is given to understanding the step-by-step process of problem solving. Geometric ideas are reviewed or introduced throughout.

**Text:** *Pre Algebra* ISBN: 0131339958

Algebra A

Grade 8

2 semesters 10 credits

**Prerequisites:**

This course is designed for those students requiring some strengthening of their fundamental arithmetic skills and a slower pace in acquiring a solid foundation in Algebra. Together, Algebra A and Algebra B will satisfy the graduation requirement. This course meets one-half of the Algebra 1 graduation requirement.

**Text:** *Algebra 1* ISBN: 0131339966

Algebra I

UC/CSU Approved

Grade 8

2 semesters 10 credits

**Prerequisite:** A grade of "C" or higher in previous math course

This course is designed to give a basic background in the techniques and topics of classical algebra. In this class, students will receive a foundation in fundamental operations with real numbers and variables. Students will begin to use formal proofs and will study topics including solutions of equations and inequalities, graphing linear functions, working with functional notation, operations with polynomials and verbal problem solving. Required for graduation from HCS

**Text:** *Algebra 1* ISBN: 0131339966

## **Physical Education**

God created man with physical as well as mental, spiritual and social needs. In physical education classes, we seek to make a major contribution to the physical well-being of students by fostering an enjoyment of physical activity, providing wholesome alternatives in the use of leisure time, building a solid foundation of motor skills and developing physical capabilities such as strength, flexibility, and cardio-respiratory fitness. Physical education is the study and practice of the science and art of human movement. Through physical education, the student has the opportunity to learn to perform efficiently the motor skills needed in everyday living and in recreational activities. The student can develop and maintain sound physiological functions through vigorous muscular activity. Physical education provides situations for learning to compete as well as to cooperate with others in striving for achievement of common goals. Satisfying and successful experiences in physical education should develop in the individual a desire to regularly participate in activity throughout life.

### **Credit Requirements:**

Students must earn 30 credits for graduation.

#### MS PE

Grades 6-7-8

6 semesters 30 credits

This course covers skills, rules, and strategies of a variety of individual and team sports. Students will have the opportunity to improve their current fitness level and be taught the importance of a lifetime commitment to fitness. Each student will be encouraged to find a sport that may be used in life long fitness. Required uniform to be purchased from the student store is a gray P.E. T-shirt and blue shorts. Also required are athletic shoes and white socks. HCS sweatshirts and sweatpants are recommended for cold days.

## **Science**

Man has always had three desires: to know where he came from, to know how to function effectively, and to know where he is going. Since God created man, he then has a responsibility to know God and His mandates. The science program thus provides students with the opportunity to study the methods of science (science as a process of studying the world), the content of science including physical science and life science, science in personal and social perspectives, history of science, and unifying concepts and processes. Students will achieve scientific literacy by:

- becoming familiar with the natural world and respecting its unity;
- becoming aware of the connectedness of human beings, nature, and technology;
- understanding some of the key concepts and principles of science;
- knowing that science is a human endeavor;
- being able to use scientific knowledge and ways of thinking for personal and social purposes.

### **Graduation Requirements:**

Students must earn 30 credits for graduation,

#### Earth Science

Grade 6

2 semesters 10 credits

Earth Science allows students to take a detailed look at the planet God created for us and the processes that have shaped it. During the course, students will be exposed to important concepts in astronomy,

meteorology, geology and physical oceanography. Earth science is designed to provide the students with an understanding of the Earth as it relates to life, physical, and environmental science. The program focuses attention on the general characteristics of the earth and also the constantly changing dynamics of our planet.

**Text:** *Earth Science for Christian Schools* ISBN: 089084612-X OR 1591666074

### Life Science

Grade 7

2 semesters 10 credits

Life Science students' study the major branches of the subject matter including: cell physiology, microbiology, botany, zoology, human anatomy, physiology, and genetics. These are God's building blocks that unfold through the course. Throughout the year, the students investigate the features, functions, and relationships among representative organisms in the five kingdoms. Activities or labs that follow scientific methods are integrated specifically for the material being studied.

**Text:** *Life Science for Christian Schools* ISBN: 089084884-X OR 1591666465

*Life Science Activity Book* ISBN: 890849420

### Physical Science

Grade 8

2 semesters 10 credits

Physical science is a course, which explores elementary concepts and principles of chemistry and physics with emphasis placed on the process and activities of the physical sciences. Areas of study and activities include scientific measurement, properties of matter, basic atomic theory, periodic table relationships, chemical reactions, force, motion, energy, and principles of chemistry and physics. Emphasis is on use of the scientific method, critical thinking, process and problem solving skills, math and graphing skills.

**Text:** *The Physical World* ISBN: 1579244203

## **Social Sciences**

Social Sciences at HCS is a revelation of the truth of God's Word in the development of the world as it is today. Information that will help the students discover the chronology of events from creation to the student's own existence will be covered. This area of study will help the student overcome anxieties about other cultures, enabling them to use God-given abilities to discern and respond to other people's needs. Studying history from the perspective of God's dealing with the nations will bring students and awareness of where they came from, what they are about and where they are going.

### **Credit Requirements:**

Students must earn 30 credits for graduation

### World History 6

Grade 6

2 semesters 10 credits

This introductory class deals with the beginnings of history and civilization. Students study all of the cultures in the sixth grade book, from Mesopotamia to the Middle Ages. This is a foundation course for other history classes at grades 7 and 9. Research skills, note-taking skills, and map/graph reading skills are emphasized.

**Text:** *Heritage Studies 6 Text* ISBN: 1579240631

*Heritage Studies 6 Workbook* ISBN: 1579244408

### World History 7

Grade 7

2 semesters 10 credits

World History 7 is a survey of the history of the Middle Ages and continues to the Twentieth Century. The course begins with a review of the materials covered in sixth grade. Topics covered in the course include the Byzantine Empire, the rise of Islam, Europe during the dark ages, medieval India, China, Korea and Japan. Pre-Colombian America and African civilizations are also covered. This course requires reading skills, spelling skills, map reading skills, and note taking skills as developed in World History 6.

**Text:** *World Studies 7 Text* ISBN: 1579240925

*World Studies 7 Student Activities* ISBN: 157924302

### U.S. History 8

Grade 8

2 semesters 10 credits

This course will begin with an intensive review of the major issues and events proceeding the founding of our nation. Students will then concentrate on the major events in U.S. history from the framing of the Constitution through the Civil War. The general categories covered will include colonial heritage, the new nation, the U.S. Constitution, sectional development in the U.S. from 1780-1850, the causes and consequences of the Civil War and the rise of industrial America. Included throughout will be a study of U.S. geography and various social science skills, such as reading charts and graphs.

**Text:** *The American Republic 8 Text* ISBN: 1579243126 OR 9781591664253

*The American Republic 8 Student Activities* ISBN: 9781579243333

## **OTHER COURSES**

### Introduction to Computer

Grade 6

1 semester 5 units

In this one-semester class, students will become familiar with basic computer operations and terminology. They will work on basic keyboarding skills, do simple word processing, and become familiar with PowerPoint. Students will incorporate what they learn into ongoing thematic projects similar to those required in the classroom in upper middle school and high school years. This course is required if the student is not in Choir.

### Guidance

Grade 6

1 semester 5 units

Guidance is a one semester course designed to assist students in becoming more mature and responsible in their actions. Included in the course are basic study skills, lessons on peer relationships, family relationships, relationship to God, study of emotions, and how to control them, how to resolve issues in a Christ like manner and other topics that may meet the needs of the students in the class. This course is required if the student is not in Choir.

### Computer 7

Grade 7

1 semester 5 units

A first course in computers designed to provide students with hands-on experience of the personal computer and its uses in society. Application programs from the Microsoft Office Suite will be taught including Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. Provides individuals with the opportunity to develop personal projects in varieties of current software such as spreadsheet,

database, word processing, multimedia, Internet and other applications for microcomputers. This course is required if the student is not in Choir.

### Speech

Grade 7

1 semester 5 units

This one-semester introductory course is designed to develop oral language skills. Students will learn small group communication, conflict management and debate principles. It includes various types of public speaking such as demonstrational, persuasive and topical speeches as well as the teaching of skills and techniques needed for each type. An introduction to dramatic interpretation is included.

The process of researching, developing, writing, and presenting speeches is a major portion of this course. This course is required if the student is not in Choir.

**Text:** *Speech Principles and Practice* ISBN: 067313363X (this book may be replaced in 2009-2010)