



ICSV Middle School Course Descriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 6

Effective communication, whether written or verbal, is an essential component of today's society. Grade 6 English is designed to assist students in reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary. It improves upon students' elementary language foundations. Students will be able to read and analyze literature, to identify and correctly apply the mechanics of language use, and to communicate their thoughts and beliefs effectively in writing. The result of this is to succeed in communicating effectively in each class and area of life throughout their Middle School years.

Grade 7

English 7 is designed to reinforce the study of literature, grammar, and writing. The class will encourage students to critically evaluate literature from a Christian worldview. Students will be enabled to express their own, original thoughts through writing and discussion. The technicalities of writing will be reinforced through the study of grammar.

Grade 8

Students will experience an integrated reading, vocabulary, grammar, and writing approach to language. Units are developed to present literary forms including short stories, poetry, drama, fiction and non-fiction. Sentence structure, paragraph structure and grammar are stressed in writing assignments that culminate in the student's ability to create argumentative, narrative, and informative style essays. The results of this program should prepare students to enter high school and succeed in communicating effectively.

MATH

Grade 6

Students in this course develop critical thinking skills while learning patience and persistence in problem solving. They practice approaching mathematics with a growth mindset, learning to communicate and collaborate as they develop a better understanding of numerical operations, proportionality, percentages, algebraic reasoning, collecting, displaying, and analyzing data, geometry, and probability. These skills and the ability to apply mathematics to real life situations lays the foundation for more advanced math classes.



Grade 7: Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is a foundational course that prepares students to take Algebra I. They explore and apply operations to decimal numbers, rational numbers, and integers. They learn to write, simplify, and solve algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities. In addition, students learn to apply number theory when solving equations, to identify and classify geometric terms and calculate measure (perimeter, area and volume; and to define and use probability, rates, and proportions. They will also identify and apply statistical measurements to various situations.

Grade 8: Algebra I

Students learn to enjoy Algebra and to develop an appreciation of the elegance and power of Algebra. They develop logical, critical, and creative thinking while learning patience and persistence in problem-solving. Students learn to communicate clearly and confidently in a variety of contexts as they develop an understanding of the principles and nature of Algebra. They apply and transfer skills to alternative situations and other areas of knowledge.

SCIENCE

Grade 6: Earth Science

In Sixth Grade Science, students demonstrate proficiency in using and understanding the process of scientific inquiry. They study the natural world by using systems, order, and organization, as well as evidence, models, and explanation. They study the different structures of the Earth's system and demonstrate an understanding of the history of the Earth and its changes over time. Students learn that God created the Earth, including the four spheres that make up Earth's surface. Students demonstrate an understanding of natural hazards and their effect on humans and human life. In particular, students study the Earth's interior, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, minerals, rocks, mapping, weathering, erosion, the atmosphere, weather, and climate.

Grade 7: Life Science

Life Science students demonstrate proficiency in using and understanding the process of scientific inquiry. They study the natural world by using the systems, order, and organization, as well as evidence, models, explanation, and the concept of measurement. Students demonstrate an understanding of the structure and function within living systems. They study populations, ecosystems, adaptations, and the diversity of organisms of the Earth. They learn that God placed us on the Earth and that we were given the responsibility to take care of it. We are to be good stewards of what belongs to God, both in the environment and in our bodies. Students also study the history of science and begin to learn of important people who have advanced scientific thought. Specific units include diversity of living things, cells, genetics, viruses and fungi, plants,



sponges, cnidarians, and worms, mollusks, arthropods, and echinoderms, fish, amphibians, and reptiles, and birds and mammals.

Grade 8: Physical Science

Students in this class demonstrate proficiency in using and understanding the process of scientific inquiry. They study the natural world by using systems, order, and organization, as well as evidence, models, and explanation and the concepts of change, constancy, and measurement. Students describe and utilize the laws of physics, including those of motion and forces. They observe and explain the transfer of energy through a variety of materials and methods. Students demonstrate an understanding of the structure and function within living systems. They describe the process of reproduction (cellular and human) and heredity. Students investigate the human body, the systems that make it up, and their interactions with each other. They also discuss issues relating to personal health. Students study the history of science and begin to learn of important people who have advanced scientific thought. In particular, the following units are studied: motion, forces, work and machines, energy, power, and heart, cells, genetics, healthy body systems, bones, muscles, skin, and digestion, circulation, respiration, and excretion, immune and nervous systems, and reproduction.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 6: Ancient History: Creation-400 AD

In sixth grade, students develop the ability to identify and analyze story elements in literature. They become efficient and clear in writing different types of paragraphs. They also evaluate new inventions and technology as these things changed the way humans live their daily lives, as well as helped to shape governments and societies. Students study ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, the ancient African Kingdoms, ancient India, ancient China, ancient America, and ancient and classical Greece. In addition, students study the rise of the Roman Empire and the birth of Christianity.

Grade 7: Ancient History: 400 AD-1600 AD

This course strives to develop in students an understanding of and a continuing interest in the past. Students are encouraged to engage with multiple perspectives and to appreciate the complex nature of historical concepts, issues, events and developments. The course promotes international mindedness through the study of history from more than one region of the world. Students also develop an understanding of history as a discipline and a historical consciousness, including a sense of chronology and context, and an understanding of different historical perspectives. More specifically, students study the growth of Islam, African, Asian, and American



civilizations, medieval Europe, the European Renaissance and Reformation, and early modern Europe.

Grade 8: United States History

This course is a continuation of the study of world history that was started in grade seven. Students develop key historical skills, including engaging effectively with sources. The course also seeks to increase students' understandings of themselves and of contemporary society by encouraging reflection on the past. Much of the course focuses on the growth of America, from the English Colonies to the Civil War and Reconstruction. It ends with World War I and its legacy.

BIBLE

Grade 6-8: Route 66

Route 66 gives students a road map of God's Word and His work as a continuous story - His Story. The Bible is the textbook. Students will learn themes and summaries of 66 books of the Bible that will prepare their hearts and minds for more detailed studies later on. The goal is not to cover the details of every Bible story but to gain a greater understanding of who God is as revealed to us in Scripture.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

German I

Students at this level learn to speak, read, write, and understand German on a very basic level understanding and using familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of different types. They can introduce themselves and others and can speak and answer or formulate questions about personal details, such as where they live, where they come from, their hobbies, people they know, and things they have. The students can interact in a simple way, provided that the other person talks slowly and clearly. Students develop a basic understanding of the Austrian culture, as well as customs and traditions of the Austrian/German speaking community. In general, students develop the following vocabulary: numbers, hobbies, food, family, time, dates, school, animals, and vacation. They learn the present, past preterite, and perfect tenses, nouns, articles, verbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and adjectives, forming questions, uses of the nominative, dative, and accusative cases, the indicative, imperative, and conjunctive modes, negation, comparatives, and formal and informal introductions.



German 2

Students learn to speak, read, write and understand the German language on a more advanced level. They can understand sentences and frequently expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance, such as very basic personal information, family, school environment, shopping, free time hobbies, and local geography. In general, students gain knowledge in the following areas: the present, simple past, present perfect and future tenses, the three cases, reflexive verbs, clauses, question words, conjunctions, the indicative and imperative moods, comparative and superlative, pronouns, and prepositions.

German 3

Students in German 3 understand the main points of clear, standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered at school, leisure, family, and work. They can deal with most situations likely to arise while travelling in an area where the language is spoken. The students can produce a simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest and can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes, and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. In general, students will gain knowledge in the following areas: future, simple past, present perfect, and plusquamperfekt tense; conjunctions; four cases; relative pronouns; the passive; infinitive sentences; and the present participle form. Specific vocabulary units include health, entertainment, tech, characteristics, feelings, relationships, and traffic.

German 4

Middle School German 4 students learn to speak, read, write, and understand the German language on a proficient level. They can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics. Students master their degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction and producing of essays with an extended length possible. The essays are clear, well-structured, and detailed and show controlled use of grammar and vocabulary. Students understand the German culture, customs, and traditions of the German speaking community. In general, the students will master their knowledge in the following areas: spelling such as ss/ß; expanding of vowels, double consonants, capitalization; fictional and nonfictional texts; creative writing; and verb tenses including the past perfect.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER SUPPORT

Middle School English Language Learning

English is the operational language of ICSV. It is imperative that students have an academic level of English proficiency. This class will assist students in understanding and using basic grammatical, reading, writing, pronunciation, and listening comprehension skills. Students will grow in social



and academic English and be able to more fully participate in mainstream classes. The ELL teachers will also guide students in viewing literature, projects, and conversations from a Christian perspective.

MUSIC

Music 1

In this class, students explore music history from the Baroque Era to the Twentieth Century. The following composers are studied: Antonio Vivaldi, Franz Joseph Haydn, Franz Liszt and John Cage. Students expand their knowledge about famous musical works and discover how to compose their own music. They learn singing technique based on the Bel Canto style. Music theory, aural skills (listening), and sight singing through the fixed do solfeggio system are introduced and developed. Basic piano technique is taught.

Music 2

This course is a continuation of Music 1; however, different composers are studied from the Baroque Era to the Twentieth Century. This year they include Bach, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and Debussy. Intermediate piano and ukulele are taught as well.

Music 3

This course is a continuation of Music 1 and 2; however, different composers are studied from the Baroque Era to the Twentieth Century. This year they include Handel, Beethoven, Schubert, and Schönberg. Advanced piano and ukulele are taught as well.

ART

This course develops students' skills through a variety of art experiences so the students become proficient observers and creators. Students grow in their ability to describe, interpret, evaluate, and respond to works in the visual arts. This course helps students to recognize their unique talents and teaches them to serve and glorify God while gaining an understanding of God's creation and art as a means of human expression. This course teaches students to evaluate art's purpose through examination of their own work and that of other people, times, and places. Students begin to understand the meaning and impact that the visual arts have in the world in which they live.



COMPUTER EDUCATION

Grades 6-8

This is a project-based class that meets twice a week for students in grades 6-8. In the class, students will learn how to utilize the various components of their ICSV G Suite account to complete work for classes (with an emphasis on Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Google Draw, and Google Sites). Other topics that will be explored in the class include keyboarding, digital citizenship, creating and editing computer graphics and video, and an introduction to coding and web design.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade 6–8

Students in the middle school PE classes develop their motor skills by using games and age appropriate movement drills. As they participate in structured “team oriented” and or lead up games for sports such as soccer, handball, volleyball and basketball, students experience and discuss issues related to participation and personal fitness. They develop an appreciation of a healthy and active lifestyle. Units of study include the following: basketball, volleyball, handball, gymnastics, and soccer.