

# MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE 2017-2018



**RANCHO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** *University Ready - Life Ready*  
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# Vision, Mission & Core Values

## Vision

To build Christ-centered leaders who are University Ready – Life Ready

## Mission

Rancho Christian School is a model of exceptionalism, centered on the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. We cultivate a safe and positive environment where students journey through a comprehensive, premier educational experience. Graduates will transform their communities, our nation, and the world.

## Core Values

- Loving God and Others
- Christ-like Character
- Premier Education
- Exceptional Programs

## Expected School-Wide Learning Results (ESLRs)

*The Rancho Christian School graduate shall be:*

- **Christ-Like:** having obtained an understanding of the Christian faith, equipped for continued spiritual growth, able to integrate the word of God into their lives, prepared to serve Christ and others and having the character of a virtuous man or woman.
- **A Life-Long Learner:** having read a wide scope of literature, trained in the skills of doing research, gathering and assimilating information, recognizing their own personal giftedness, and having a knowledge and appreciation of art and culture.
- **Articulate:** able to express thoughtful ideas through writing, speech, and the creative arts.  
A Thinker: having obtained knowledge, skilled in critical analysis, able to solve problems and to draw logical conclusions.
- **Wholesome:** having both the knowledge and understanding to care for the mental, physical and spiritual welfare of themselves and others.

# Promotion Requirements

Course Category	RCMS Promotion Requirement
History/Social Science	3 years
English	3 years
Mathematics	3 years
Science	3 years
Bible	3 years
Physical Education	3 years
6th Grade Computer	.5 year
6th Grade Foundations	.5 year
7th/8th Visual & Performing Arts Elective	.5 year
7th/8th Global Language Elective	.5 year
7th/8th STEM Elective	.5 year
7th/8th ASB	1 year commitment for Officers only (can be taken 2 years in a row in lieu of other elective courses, with teacher/administrator permission)
6th/7th/8th Band	1 year commitment (can be taken all 3 years in lieu of other elective courses, with teacher/administrator permission)

## Elective Courses

At the middle school level, elective courses are designed to allow students to explore a variety of electives and further develop a well rounded educational experience. God designed each of his children with different skills and interests. Elective courses help students discover and develop those individual skills, which is why Rancho requires each student to take a variety of courses prior to promotion.

# Sample Student Weekly Schedule

## 8th Grade Schedule

	Monday Blue/Gold	Tuesday Blue	Wednesday Gold	Thursday Blue	Friday Gold
1	1/2	08 SCI-1 West 105-Science Lab		08 SCI-1 West 105-Science Lab	
2			08 PE-G-2G Gym		08 PE-G-2G Gym
3	3/4	MS ART -3A West 109		MS ART -3A West 109	
4			08 ENG-4 West 108		08 ENG-4 West 108
<b>Break</b>					
5	5/6	MS-SH-8B-5 West 104-Stem Lab		MS-SH-8B-5 West 104-Stem Lab	
6			ALG 1-6 MS West 102		ALG 1-6 MS West 102
<b>Lunch</b>					
<b>Chapel</b>					
7	7/8	08 Bib-7 West 107		08 Bib-7 West 107	
8			08 HIST-8 West 108		08 HIST-8 West 108

# Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious offenses. They involve lying about one's own work and/or stealing a fellow student's. Rancho administration feels it is critical for students to understand the definition of these two terms; they are egregious offenses and will be dealt with accordingly. Cheating or plagiarizing includes:

- Copying homework, assignments, work or lab reports
- Providing the above to another student
- Knowingly giving false information on a paper or report
- "Copying and pasting" from the internet
- Presenting information as your own which is not your own (which includes using undocumented sources or taking ideas from another student)
- Discussing the contents of tests and quizzes with another student who was not present
- Gaining access to test/quiz questions in advance of the test
- Copying another student's answers on a test/quiz

# Academic/Behavioral Eligibility

Should a student's academic or behavioral standing meet the following standards, they will be placed on a 9 week academic probation.

- GPA of 2.0 or lower in any grading quarter
- Receiving a "U" in Citizenship in 2 or more classes
- Receiving 3 or more detentions in a single grading period
- Failure to follow school rules repeatedly
- Excessive absenteeism

It is very important to the Rancho family that each student experience great academic success while at Rancho. Therefore, Faculty and Administration will work with students and their parents to help the student improve their grades and/or behavior and regain their academic standing. This may include extra time with faculty, tutoring or other academic tools. However, students with consistent academic status at the probationary level may face academic expulsion from Rancho Christian School.

If a student fails a course, it is the student's responsibility to remediate with a course approved by administration in order to meet graduation requirements.

# Drop/Add Procedure

Students must select courses prior to enrollment at Rancho. Should classes not be available, students will be placed in alternative courses. The Registrar makes every effort to design student schedules to best promote their academic goals. Should a student wish to change their schedule, the student must meet with the Registrar, and in some cases, the Principal to get proper paperwork. Parent and teacher signatures are required for a student to drop or add a course to their schedule. Schedule changes are not possible after the first two weeks of the semester unless student has Administrative approval.

## **Withdrawal Procedure**

All students wishing to withdraw from Rancho must fill out the withdrawal form - it can be requested from the Registrar. Parents are encouraged to visit with the Registrar after they have talked with appropriate teachers and administrators, ensuring that the decision is in the best interest of the student. Withdrawals for second semester must be by November 1, 2017 to avoid responsibility for the year's tuition.

## **Changes Course Offerings/Curriculum Changes**

All courses and curriculum is subject to resource availability, student interest, and can be changed due to circumstances beyond Rancho's control.

## **Course Syllabi & Grades**

All teachers will supply students with a course syllabus on the first day of class. This syllabus will map out the course of study, explain classroom rules and grading procedures. All grades are posted in the student's RenWeb account and can be accessed by parents at any time. Teachers have two weeks to get grades entered in to RenWeb after an assignment is due.

## **Student Responsibilities**

- Come to school on time.
- Come prepared in proper RCS Uniform and Dress Code.
- Come prepared with all assignments completed.
- Come prepared to actively listen and participate in classes.
- Come prepared to do well on quizzes and tests.
- Come prepared to be a positive influence on the school environment.
- Come prepared to talk with teachers about your mistakes and concerns.
- Come prepared to share the love of Jesus Christ with all whom you come into contact.

# Course Descriptions

## MATH

### **Math, Course 1 (Glencoe McGraw-Hill)**

A challenging, foundational course preparing students for Pre-Algebra. Students will be taught the foundations of arithmetic operations and problem solving involving integers and rational numbers, estimation, order of operations, functions and relations, basic equations and inequalities, as well as measurement, data analysis, and geometry. Biblical Integration: Math is a gift from God as a way to communicate, solve problems, and proactively create solutions in everyday life.

(Sixth grade math course)

### **Math, Course 2 (Glencoe McGraw-Hill)**

A rigorous course that continues to lay the foundations for Pre-Algebra and Algebra. Students will be developing and mastering concepts taught in Course 1 within more complex algebraic problems/equations. Application of mastery in data analysis, problem solving, some aspects of geometry and measurement. Biblical Integration: Structure and order are ordained by the Creator and reflected in mathematical functions.

(Seventh grade; advanced sixth grade - Advanced students must maintain an 85% and have a teacher recommendation to advance to Pre-Algebra)

### **Math, Course 3 (Glencoe McGraw-Hill)**

A pre-algebra course that deepens the foundation for Algebra. Students continue to master and apply previously taught math concepts, such as multi-step equations and inequalities, linear functions and systems of equations, geometry, and data analysis. Biblical Integration: God filled the world with mathematics for our enjoyment and to allow us to find him in nature.

(Eighth grade math course)

### **Pre-Algebra (Glencoe McGraw Hill)**

A pre-algebra course for the advanced 7th grade students. This course builds a strong foundation for Algebra and application of algebraic skills, critical thinking, and creative problem solving. The following foundational algebraic concepts include the following: rational numbers and equations, proportions and similarity, linear and nonlinear functions, two-and three-dimensional space, and data sets. (Seventh grade advanced. Students must maintain an 85% and have a teacher recommendation for Algebra I)

### **Algebra I (Glencoe McGraw Hill)**

A course in foundational algebra that is a continuation of pre-algebra with more abstract mathematical concepts. The following algebraic skills include: complex equations, linear relationships, exponential and quadratic relationships, radical and rational functions, and data analysis. (Eighth grade accelerated: This course is by teacher recommendation.)



# BIBLE

## **Bible 6 - Old Testament/New Testament Survey (Positive Action for Christ)**

In this class, the student will get an overview of the entire Bible, Genesis to Revelation. Each lesson covers a book of the Bible; the main points from each book are highlighted. There is an emphasis on the themes of God the creator, the author of the universe as well as providence, the hand of God working in and through human history to accomplish His plan. We then move to the kings and judges to examine the kingdoms and prophets. Once in the New Testament we will look at the life of Jesus Christ, His ministry, and His death and resurrection. We will conclude with a believer's responsibility to Jesus Christ and to the Church. Students will read and analyze various passages in Genesis, Exodus, Judges, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, Ecclesiastes, Jeremiah, Daniel, Jonah as well as selected Psalms and Proverbs. Students will memorize the Ten Commandments and Psalms 1, 8 and 23.

## **Bible 7 (Basics of the Christian Faith)**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Bible curriculum is based on scripture and will focus on what it means to be a Christian, the gospel, the authority and reliability of scripture, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ in the synoptic Gospels, and the establishing of the early Church in Acts. We will be spending much of our time in 4 books of the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts) to see what God's Word says about all of the listed topics. The learning process will involve biblical passages and readings, classroom and family dialogue, and personal reflection and projects. Much of the class discussion will be led using the Socratic method. Teaching core principles of Christ and His Apostles, we desire to help our students grow in the Christian faith and live it out Head, Heart, and Hands for Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Bible 8 (Living for Christ)**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Bible curriculum is based on scripture and will focus on what it means to be a Christian, the gospel, fundamentals of sound doctrine, living a life for Christ, and the Church. We will be spending most of first semester in the book of Romans. We will be exploring other epistles of Paul during second semester. The learning process will involve biblical passages and readings, classroom and family dialogue, and personal reflection and projects. Most of the class discussion will be led using the Socratic method. Teaching core principles of Christ and His Apostles, we desire to help our students grow in the Christian faith and live it out Head, Heart, and Hands for Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **Social Studies 6 - Ancient World History (TCI: History Alive)**

This course will cover the religious, social, cultural, political and technological changes of the world from creation until just before the fall of the Roman Empire. An Apologetics introduction to Intelligent Design will be presented, as well as the arguments for other theories of the origin of the universe. This will allow students to understand the scientific evidence behind creation.

While it would be impossible to do justice to every era of history during that time, our focus will be upon the major civilizations like Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, India, China, Greece, and Rome. In addition to simply learning about the events of the past, this course will begin to discuss the connections that exist between them. As we begin to learn about the world, it will also be important to learn about history itself; how it is written, who writes it, and to understand its importance.

### **Social Studies 7 - Medieval and Early Modern Times (TCI: History Alive)**

Students study the religious, social, cultural, political, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Meso-America, Africa, and Asia in the years 330-1789 A.D. in conjunction with God's ultimate plan for this world in the revelation of Jesus Christ. Students study the history and geography of great civilizations that were developing concurrently throughout the world during the medieval and early modern times. They examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, and technologies. They learn about the resulting growth of the Enlightenment philosophy and the new examination of concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings and the divine right of kings, experimentalism in science, and the dogma of belief. Biblical principles and values are emphasized in contrast to other religions. These values are also reviewed in-depth during the study of the Reformation. Students will assess the political forces let loose by the Enlightenment, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, and they learn about the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today. History 7 explores the question, "How and why do we live and believe like we do?"

### **Social Studies 8 - United States History (TCI: History Alive)**

This course will cover the history of the United States from the time before colonization, to independence, and on to the present. Covering the entirety of the history of the United States would be impossible if each event were covered fully. In order to combat the sheer amount of history we will focus on the specific events and eras that have made the U.S. the place it is today. In addition to simply learning about the events of the past, this course will begin to discuss the connections that exist between them. As we begin to learn about our country, it will be important to learn about history itself; how it is written, who writes it, and why it is important. The last and most important aspect of our historical study is that of God and his role and providence in shaping the nation.

# SCIENCE

## **Science 6 - Earth Science (Pearson)**

Introductory course to topics in Earth Science including: Geology, Topography, Plate Tectonics, Oceanography, Meteorology, and Astronomy. Students shall gain a basic knowledge of the general topics of Earth Science. Students will gain an understanding of the basic methodology of science through the completion of an independent investigative project. Students will develop fundamental skills of measurement, observation and analysis of data.

## **Science 7 - Life Science (Pearson)**

Introductory course to topics in Life Science including: Cellular Biology, Anatomy, Genetics, and Ecology. Students shall gain a basic knowledge of the general topics of Life Science. This understanding will provide a foundation for high school biology classes taken later. Students will learn basic laboratory skills, such as safety and measurement. Students will gain an understanding of the basic methodology of science through the completion of an independent investigative project. Students will develop fundamental skills of measurement, observation and analysis of data.

## **Science 8 - Physical Science (Pearson)**

Physical Science is a course that explores many of the basic physical sciences we experience in our everyday world. Beginning with the concept of matter, students will explore the world around them. During chemistry, they will learn about and investigate the tiny particle that God created when he made our earth. They will learn about elements, compounds, chemical reactions, and acids and bases. After the chemistry unit, the students will learn about the basic of physics. From motion to energy, they will experience the physical laws which govern action in God's world. They will also learn about waves, sound, and light. The year will finish with a unit on magnetism and electricity, two essential components that we rely so heavily on for our lifestyle today. This course explores many physical concepts in a broad based format to give students the foundation for higher level learning at the high school level.

# ENGLISH

**English Department:** The lessons, activities, and projects designed for students in English provide them with the tools necessary to meet and exceed the standards in language Arts. Students will be taught skills that provide opportunities to explore, enhance, and reach proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This includes expanding the student's vocabulary and advancing their grammar skills.

Through the study of literature, students will develop and refine their persuasive/argumentative writing techniques. This is a training period for students to hone their skills as they prepare for the future rigors of high school. At Rancho Christian we believe students can achieve great things when they take ownership in their education. We endeavor to help cultivate a love for learning in the students. Middle school is a more self-directed stage of learning, in contrast to their earlier parent and teacher-directed elementary level.

To be a good reader, one must always ask questions of the text. Only as words are sorted through the reader's present perception of the world do they have meaning. A good reader, who always reads dialectically, practices arriving at the truth by the exchange of logical arguments. Good writers sort through their thoughts, and are aware of their audience. Students will work through *The Lost Tools of Writing, Level 1* by Andrew Kern. This Christian, classical writing program lays the groundwork for higher level thinking, writing, and speaking skills. This comprehensive composition programs trains students in the art of clear thinking and persuasive/argumentative writing. Students look at both sides of an issue clearly when developing an argument. Every kind of writing is contained in the persuasive essay. Students will learn stylistic techniques that can then be applied to reading and writing poetry, students learn narrative structure that can then be applied to writing fiction, and students learn about the concept of authority which can be applied to research. Every essay contains opportunities to practice logic and critical thinking skills as well.

## **English 6 - Grammar and Literature (ABeka, Wordly Wise, Evan-Moor, and Prentice Hall)**

Sixth grade grammar is designed to make clear the orderly structure of their language. It is taught in a practical way so students will see how all words have specific jobs that fit together to form sentences. They are guided to develop orderly and complete paragraphs through creative writing, expository essays, and persuasive writing. Through discussion and guided writing assignments, articulate and correct verbal and written skills will be developed.

### **Vocabulary**

All words were selected to expand critical grade-level vocabulary and content-area academic reading.

### **Literature**

Reading will be done for the enrichment of the literary process according to classic and modern works. They will work on analysis through literary elements, comprehension, fluency, and application. (Reading includes: *Tuck Everlasting*, *Ancient Greece and the Olympics*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The Egypt Games*, *Hatchet*, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, *Punished*, *The Indian in the Cupboard*, and *The Bronze Bow*)

## **English 7 - Grammar and Literature (Wordly Wise, Circe Institute, Canonpress, and Prentice Hall)**

Students will be grammatically trained on basic rules in the parts of speech. They will be led to properly use all areas of grammar in speaking and writing.

### **Vocabulary**

They will review and be introduced to many new vocabulary words and their definitions. They will also learn how to properly broaden their vocabulary by using their new vocabulary words on a daily basis.

### **Literature**

Reading will be done for the enrichment of the literary process according to classic and modern works. Students will work on reading comprehension and being able to read fluently and apply it effectively. (Reading includes: *Crispin*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, *The Shakespeare Stealer*, *A Christmas Carol* - the play adapted from the original story by Charles Dickens, and *Treasure Island*)

## **English 8 - Grammar and Literature (Wordly Wise, Circe Institute, Canonpress, and Prentice Hall)**

This year of study is focused on students acquiring a thorough understanding of the eight parts of speech and they will be challenged to apply them properly through writing and daily speaking.

### **Vocabulary**

Vocabulary development, reading comprehension, critical thinking, word usage, context clues, test taking/assessment, multiple-meaning words, using word parts to determine meaning, Greek and Latin roots, antonyms and synonyms, analogies, word origins, and repeated exposure to words in many contexts.

### **Literature**

Reading will be done for the enrichment of the literary process according to classic and modern works. Students will work on reading comprehension and being able to read fluently while applying it effectively. Focus on life application and understanding of implied concepts will be developed through class discussions and various writing activities. (Reading includes: *Anne Frank*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Call of the Wild*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *Johnny Tremain*)

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## **Physical Education**

This course provides an introduction to physical fitness, conditioning and skills development for all physical activity. Students will also be introduced to rules and strategies in competitive sports, as well as, developing skills and character in team building.

Students are placed in gender and grade specific classes.

Three main areas have been identified to implement activities that attempt to meet desired program goals. Assessments are used to evaluate essential learning objectives. The three main areas of activities for the middle school Physical Education program include: health related physical fitness; individual sports/activities; and team sports/activities.

## ELECTIVES

### **Robotics**

The Robotics course is designed to explore the current and future use of automation technology in industry and everyday use. The students will receive a comprehensive overview of robotic systems and the subsystems that comprise them. The course is designed to introduce the students to robotics through hands-on activities preparing them for possible competition teams in high school. Careers in robotics, programming, and engineering will be discussed.

### **Associated Student Body (ASB)**

ASB represents the interests and goals of the entire Rancho Christian Middle School. Students are partially elected and partially appointed. Officers that are appointed take ASB year round. Students who enroll in ASB do so because they recognize that there is more to being successful in school than simply doing homework. Having a positive atmosphere during the school day where students feel wanted and accepted is critical to their success. To that end, the officers and appointed officers of the ASB class focus on developing leadership skills while providing engaging activities that ensure a well-rounded middle school experience.

### **Studio Art**

This course encourages students to further their knowledge in creating artwork using drawing and painting. Students are introduced to a variety of techniques and media to achieve a well-rounded education in this area of the arts. Historical and contemporary art is also impressed upon the students, along with “real-life” application to how the arts affect our culture and how art can be applied to the business and ministry world.

### **Introduction to Mandarin Chinese**

The course is designed to give the students an introduction to Mandarin Chinese and a preview of what they will expand upon in their high school Mandarin Chinese classes. Students will be introduced to the sound and writing system of Mandarin Chinese, learn to pronounce Mandarin sounds and write Chinese characters, learn useful phrases and fine tuning of pronunciation and tones, and learn to build Chinese sentence structures. The Department of Defense calls Mandarin Chinese the “critical foreign language”. The increasing interest to learn Chinese Mandarin is in response to China's economic boom as it has emerged from decades of isolation, as well as the U.S. economy's increasing trade with China. China is now the USA's No. 2 trading partner, behind Canada and ahead of Mexico.

### **Introduction to Spanish**

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language, including phonetic pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, writing and reading and culture.

### **Introduction to French**

This course is an introduction to the French language, including phonetic pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, writing and reading, and culture.

### **CEO**

CEO challenge is a business style course teaching students the basics of building a business. This is a 90 hour course divided into 4 units. Unit 1 is designing and identifying fundamental business practices. Unit 2 is

developing advertising and marketing strategies. Unit 3 is evaluating investment opportunities and financial concepts and unit 4 is implementation of business skills. Each student after completing this course will be equipped to enter high school with the tools needed to format papers, document research and give presentation. They will also understand how web 2.0 tools can assist them in their study habits.

### **Drama**

Drama is an introduction to the dramatic arts in preparing for performance. The process challenges students to begin developing technique in observation, sensory awareness, applied imagination, ensemble work, improvisation, and scene work.

### **Band**

This course offers beginning instruction for the wind instruments and percussion. You will learn to perform a repertoire of instrumental literature representing various genres, styles, and cultures with expression, technical accuracy, tone quality, and articulation, by oneself and in ensembles. The course also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performing, listening, composing, improvising, analyzing, and learning how to read standard music notation, and tablature. No experience needed, just a willingness to learn.

### **Resource**

Resource is an elective course (prerequisite: teacher approval). Students are given instruction in study skills, organization, and meta-cognition (self-evaluation of a student's present skills and ways they themselves can improve their performance). Students use materials from other courses along with primary source materials to develop their skills. *"The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor. Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad."* - Proverbs 12:24-25 ESV

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### **6th Grade Only:**

#### **Foundations for Success**

Foundations class will cover writing strategies, study and organizational skills, character building and an introduction to art.

#### **Computer Essentials**

This course introduces students to Photoshop and Google Drive. It includes, but is not limited to: Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Google Drawing, and Google Sites. Instructions are sent to students by means of their email address, which is accessed through Google Chrome. In addition, each class period students sharpen their typing skills through Typing.com.

### **Band**

See above description.