



**SHEBOYGAN  
CHRISTIAN**  
S C H O O L

## **Middle School Curriculum**

### **English Language Arts**

#### Vision Statement:

Students will become effective communicators through reading, writing, speaking and listening in order to convey God's story.

#### Summary of Philosophy/Approach:

Children learn to read and write by reading and writing; therefore, SCS uses the workshop approach for reading and writing. In the workshop approach, students participate in a mini lesson and then are off to read and write for extended amounts of time, with the teacher providing one-on-one conferencing to enhance student skills.

#### Summary of Content:

**Writing:** Writing includes instruction in writing narrative, informational, and opinion pieces through the use of mentor texts and self-assessment. Grammar study is an integral part of our writing curriculum.

**Reading:** Through the study of fiction and nonfiction, students deepen literal and interpretive comprehension and become discerning, lifelong readers.

**Speaking/Listening:** Grades 5-8 learn and practice speaking skills by participating in classroom and regional presentations of speeches, both published scripts and their own written speeches.

### **Math**

#### Vision Statement:

Students will persevere to reach their God-given potential through problem solving, critical thinking, and collaborative real life applications.

#### Summary of Philosophy/Approach:

Mathematics helps us see the order and beauty of God's creation and thus of God Himself.

Therefore, mathematics derives its purpose, meaning, and value from God. Mathematics does not exist in isolation, but rather has clear connections with all aspects of God's creation. Teachers use teaching methods that actively engage students' minds and bodies, and discuss in their classes how the surrounding cultures view mathematics and how a Christian perspective differs. Teachers foster an attitude of appreciation for mathematics as a gift from God.

#### Summary of Content:

Students participate in a 40 minutes daily math class where the mathematical practices are applied and the standards are taught for each specific grade level.

Highlights:

- 6th Grade: Ratios and proportional relationships; early expressions and equations
- 7th Grade: Ratios and proportional relationships; arithmetic of rational numbers
- 8th Grade: Linear algebra and linear functions

Opportunities for intervention and challenges are provided. Production Period and Study Place are times outside of math class for students to ask questions to gain better understanding. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Lakeland University and Trinity Christian College math meets twice a year.

## **Science**

Vision Statement:

Sheboygan Christian School science engages students in God's creation through discovery and investigation so that they may marvel in and transform the world.

Summary of Philosophy/Approach:

Science is the systematic study of God's creation. To accomplish this SCS uses a balanced approach of instruction, demonstration, observation, inquiry, and hands on learning.

Summary of Content:

Middle School science focuses on three broad areas of study. 6th grade students study physical science; 7th grade students focus on life science; 8th grade students study earth and space science.

## **Bible**

Vision Statement:

Students will grow in their knowledge of scripture resulting in a heart for God and His world.

Summary of Philosophy/Approach:

The Bible is God's Word; it is light and truth. God reveals His plan of salvation to us and His will of how to live our lives through His word. We must first recognize our sin and how Jesus Christ has come to tabernacle and dwell among us. God desires to see us living as faithful servants seeking to witness, transform, and restore His creation into a right relation with Him.

Summary of Content:

The 6th grade Bible curriculum covers the lives of the patriarchs, Israel's delivery from Egypt, the journey to Canaan, the conquests, Judges and Ruth, and Israel's early monarchy under David. The 7th grade Bible curriculum addresses the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah, the days of exile, the return from captivity, and the time between the Old and New Testaments. The 8<sup>th</sup> Bible curriculum is totally immersed in the life of Jesus Christ. The study begins with Christ's baptism and closely details the life and words of Jesus Christ through his speeches, parables, and miracles. Considerable time is spent in Passion Week studying the great gift of salvation and the life eternal we receive through his resurrection. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are challenged to participate in Bible topics discussions which address various issues present in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America. These topics include fashions, music, movies, euthanasia, abortion, capital punishment and many more.

## **Social Studies**

### Vision Statement:

Students will encounter God's call to obedient living, develop data-based arguments, evaluate culture on biblical principles, and become God's agents of justice.

### Summary of Philosophy/Approach:

The most important focus to our history and social studies curriculum is for the child to understand the unfolding of God's plan in the events of the world. From Creation until the present, God is guiding and directing the affairs of man. All of history is a study of God's guiding hand in the day to day events of the entire world. Students should learn to recognize how sin has impacted human relationships. The most important events in the history of mankind were the Creation by God through His Son, the Word; the coming of Christ into the world as God incarnate; and the coming of Christ into the world as reigning Savior and Lord. History and social studies should teach students the value of living in harmony with God and their neighbor.

### Summary of Content:

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum focuses on the various ancient civilizations. We travel to the various continents discovering the history and geography of each place. Main important areas of focus are Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, India, China, Africa, and South America. The study of the ancient people includes their desire to find and worship God which leads to a close examination of the world's main religions. The history and geography of North America are excluded from 6<sup>th</sup> Social Studies.

7th grade Social Studies focuses on the history of the United States from colonial times through World War I. We look to find out the connections between events and people across the late 18th century through the 20th century, and evaluate different events through the lens of a Christian perspective. We spend some weekly time also discussing current events, linking the past to present.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum spends one semester intently focusing on the US Constitution. Review is given to the nature of government and how it formed here in the American colonies. A majority of the time is spent studying the actual words and phrases found in the Constitution. The second semester focuses on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century US History beginning with the Great Depression.

## **Spanish**

### Vision Statement:

SCS Spanish will prepare our students for their part in God's culturally diverse world using inspiring, engaging and relevant language learning.

### Summary of Philosophy/Approach:

Students achieve the basic skills to understand and communicate in Spanish, and will develop an interest and appreciation of the Hispanic culture, in and outside of the U.S. In the Spanish classroom, students focus on communication, cultures, connections, comparisons and communities. Students learn through the use of technology, songs, group work, conversation, and games. The classroom is a positive, challenging, fun and energetic environment that motivates and helps students succeed at becoming proficient in the language. By learning a new language,

students' minds are opened to new cultures and therefore new ideas and different ways of looking at God's diverse world.

#### Summary of Content:

In Middle School, students dive deeper into the Spanish language and are prepared to enter Spanish II when they enter high school. Students learn to communicate more in depth with their peers in the target language. Students continue to learn basic vocabulary and grammar. Verbs and verb conjugations are in the present tense.

### **Fine Arts**

#### Vision Statement:

Students will develop their God-given creative abilities as they reflect Him by striving for excellence and glorifying God.

#### Summary of Philosophy/Approach:

##### Visual Arts

- Being made in the image of our creative God, students' creative abilities and talents are a reflection of Him. In the SCS art classes, students grow in their visual literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving as they create visual art as a form of communication and expression. Since art is meant to be celebrated and shared, you will see artwork on display throughout the school hallways. Local art shows and competitions are also a venue to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of the incredible artists at SCS!

##### Performing Arts

- Music is a gift of God to us, His creatures. We, being created in the image of God, likewise have a creative nature. We therefore have the ability to create and appreciate the creation of music. Music is also a vital part of our worship of God, as we are commanded to do so throughout the Bible. The music curriculum trains God's people to be active participants in performing, studying, and listening to music so that they may reflect God to the world.

#### Summary of Content:

##### Visual Arts

- At the middle school level, students explore drawing, painting, sculpture, and design. Literacy is incorporated into the visual arts by having students write reflections about their artwork. Students also learn how to critique and self-assess artwork.

##### Performing Arts

- All Middle School students have the privilege of participating in Choir. Choir provides them with an opportunity to continue developing skills in body movement for singing, vocal control, pitch matching, harmony, and reading musical scores. They learn how all of these skills can enhance their ability to use music for the purpose of glorifying God. This will equip them to sing in unity with others, blending voices and expression, for lifelong musical worship. Each December, the Choir participates in the Christmas Concert. They also sing as a group, and in smaller ensembles/duets/solos at the local and regional Christian Schools International Music Festival. Additional opportunities to use their music to encourage others include singing for Grandparents' Day, caroling in the community at Christmas time, and singing on the Chapel Praise Team (optional).

- Middle School Band is offered to students grades 6-8. The band meets 1.5 times a week. It provides students with the opportunity to develop and stretch their musical ability and work together as a team, listening and balancing one another. In addition, instrumental group lessons are provided once a week. Areas of focus include balance, tone, theory, scales, articulation, dynamics, rhythm, and technique. In addition to the time during band and group lessons, students are expected to practice outside of class. The MS Band performs two concerts throughout the school year- a Christmas Concert and the SCS Music Festival. The MS Band also participates in the Music Festival in Brookfield, WI, along with all the other Wisconsin Christian schools. All band members are required to perform at least one solo or small ensemble piece in front of an adjudicator at Music Fest. Additional performing opportunities also include Grandparents' Day. Opportunities for summer music programs around the state are made known to the students throughout the year.

## **Physical Education**

### Vision Statement:

SCS middle school physical education seeks to support the growth of a Christian student in the image of God and provide understanding of our purpose and value in service to God.

### Summary of Philosophy/Approach:

God created man in His image and likeness, able to develop socially, mentally, physically, and spiritually. God desires to have a close relationship with us. Since sin came into the world through Adam and Eve our body and soul have been tainted by sin. I Corinthians 6:19-20 reminds us that "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." Christians need to do everything in their power to maintain their bodies in excellent condition to honor God and to be ready and able to serve God. Maintaining our bodies is a lifelong desire that involves exercise, proper nutrition, and sufficient rest.

### Summary of Content:

Students participate in a variety of games and activities that encourage teamwork, fitness, and good sportsmanship.

## **Applied Technology**

Middle school technology class covers a wide variety of topics and lessons needed to navigate the highly technological world around us. Lessons cover basics such as learning how to use Google Slides, Google Sheets, and Google Documents in ways applicable to assignments they get from other teachers. The class spends time learning about coding as well. Discussion topics include digital footprints, internet safety, and privacy settings and scams. Students learn about banking, checking, and budgets. The class also practices data entry, formulas, and graphs while learning about the stock market and investments.