

# EIGHTH GRADE

## Core Classes

- Bible
  - We are committed to the study of God’s Word in all our subjects and its application to our lives as the foundation for living a joyful, victorious Christian life. Daily Bible class is an important part of spiritual development at FCS. We ultimately desire that every student discover and strengthen a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and develop a biblical worldview.
  - At the eighth grade level, students participate in an in-depth study of several books of the Bible as well as learning about faith with the study of *Know Why You Believe*.
  - All parents are welcome to attend our weekly chapels for worship and sharing about God’s Word and its application to our lives.
- Language Arts
  - Students thoroughly study the structure of sentences including parts of speech, types of sentences, grammar, usage and mechanics. Opportunities are given regularly to write about a variety of topics and improve students’ ability to communicate with words. Effective paragraph writing and research skills are emphasized and often integrated with other subject areas.
  - A variety of literature is read and utilized to develop increased literacy, comprehension and critical thinking skills. Literature concepts studied and novels read at the eighth grade level include selected short stories, *The Miracle Worker* and *Slopes of War*.
  - Spelling and vocabulary development are integrated with the study of literature.
  - Students are also given the opportunity to participate in the ACSI Spelling Bee and Creative Writing Festival every year.
- History
  - During eighth grade students complete a chronological study of American history using Bob Jones Heritage Studies in order to recognize God’s providence and sovereignty. Geography concepts and current events are integrated throughout the year.
- Science
  - Students explore a variety of life science topics using Bob Jones curriculum. Creation is taught in accordance with the account in Genesis, and other issues in science are studied in light of biblical principles. Hands-on learning opportunities and emphasis on the Scientific Method are a regular part of science class.
- Mathematics
  - The study of mathematics provides unique opportunities to learn about God’s orderliness, precision, unchangeableness and absolute truthfulness. Emphasis is placed in several key strands: numbers and operations, measurement, geometry, patterns, algebra and functions, statistics, data analysis and probability, problem solving, communication, mathematical reasoning, and connections. Yearly participation in the ACSI Math Olympics allows an opportunity for students in third through eighth grades to compete with students in other Christian schools and challenge themselves to grow in their math ability. Students in eighth grade use the McDougal Littell curriculum.

## Extracurricular

- Physical Education
  - Students attend Physical Education class for three quarters of the year. They learn to appreciate the amazing abilities of the human body and are taught the importance of care of the body. Students also learn and practice skills in a variety of team, individual and lifetime sports.
- Band and Orchestra
  - The main emphasis of the instrumental program at FCS is to provide a medium through which musicianship and social skills can be formed through a well-rounded music education. This encompasses a basic knowledge of music history and music theory in addition to technical and expressive skill in the student's respective instrument, while participating in various concert performances and competitive festivals.
  - Students with knowledge and experience in a musical instrument may participate in the Middle School Orchestra or the Middle School Band.
- Art
  - Students can attend art class for a portion of the year and explore the foundational elements of line, shape, space, texture and color. An annual Visual Arts Festival highlights each student's artwork.
- Choir
  - Choir for middle school students is an opportunity to develop their musical talents and honor the Lord by sharing them with others. Students in choir meet every day to explore basic techniques of singing and vocal production, expand their score reading skills and understanding of musical elements, develop personal vocal range, tone, control and listening skills, and perform a variety of types of music. The choir performs concerts, competes in festivals and sings in other venues during the year.
- Computer Class
  - Students attend computer class for a portion of the year and use a variety of programs to complete projects in technology basics, digital citizenship, presentations, and word processing. Students also continue keyboarding which includes learning correct fingering and daily practice to improve proficiency.
- Foreign Language
  - Students have the opportunity to attend a full-year foreign language class. Choices include French I and Spanish I. These classes earn high school credit.
- Drama
  - Students have the opportunity to attend Introduction to Drama. Students learn drama techniques and have various performance opportunities throughout the year.