



ESSENTIAL LEARNING FOR EIGHTH GRADE

At the end of Eighth Grade, students should be able to demonstrate mastery of the following material:

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Annotate texts from a variety of genres (news, novels, essays, etc.)
- Analyze American poetry using the TPCASTT method
- Examine and analyze a Shakespeare play; write a sonnet
- Read and evaluate different types of nonfiction
- Read and analyze a dystopian novel and find examples from the world today which correlate with the author's commentary
- Read and discern various genres of literature with a Christian worldview and interpret text from this viewpoint
- Integrate and cite textual evidence in MLA format
- Write a novel analysis essay using Step Up to Writing
- Prepare and participate in a debate on a current topic
- Research, prepare slides for, and present a TED-style talk on a current topic with the goal of giving voice to the voiceless
- Identify the parts of speech and apply to proper sentence structure; diagram accurately
- Memorize and correctly use vocabulary words including Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes
- Correctly apply Strunk and White's Elements of Style to writing

ALGEBRA 1 (ONE OF TWO MATH OPTIONS)

- Explain one's personal mathematical thinking
- Reason quantitatively and use properties of rational and irrational numbers, including roots and exponents
- Perform operations on polynomials to solve equations and inequalities, and represent them graphically
- Identify, transform, and apply various functions to solve problems, including linear, absolute value, quadratic, exponential, and radical
- Solve systems of equations algebraically

The mission of San Jose Christian School is to advance the kingdom of God by providing exceptional teaching and curriculum fully integrated with Biblical perspective. Within our Christian community we live to engage and transform culture for Jesus Christ.

BIBLE

- Memorize and explain context of key Bible passages
- Analyze one's relationship with the Living God by answering the following questions: Who is God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)? Who am I? What place do I have in the story of God and His people?
- Discover and engage in inductive Bible study (Gospels, Acts, NT Letters), spiritual conversations, and spiritual disciplines
- Appraise the role of faith and doubt in our relationship with God
- Write an expository research essay on one New Testament letter using Step Up To Writing accordion essay format
- Define transformation, sanctification, and personal character growth in reading C. S. Lewis' *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*
- Compare and contrast Christianity to major world religions in their historical, theological, and geographic contexts: Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Understand humanism and atheism.
- Hold spiritual conversations with Christian adults on key topics

TECHNOLOGY / DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

- Develop an approach to technology and one's digital presence based on effective communication and wise decision-making
- Interact with a variety of digital tools and digital resources
- Use technology as a tool for learning and problem-solving

MATH 8 (ONE OF TWO MATH OPTIONS)

- Explain one's personal mathematical thinking
- Recognize and apply the following concepts: linear and inverse variation, Pythagorean Theorem, exponential growth and decay, symmetry and transformations, systems of linear equations, 2D and 3D shapes, surface area, and volume
- Manipulate mathematical symbols in preparation for future math

HISTORY (U.S. HISTORY)

- Describe and apply basic principles embodied in the Constitution
- Evaluate U.S. history in a contemporary and Biblical context
- Analyze the relationship between past events to current issues
- Evaluate and assess the issues, social tensions, and events surrounding colonization, the American Revolution, the Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, immigration, the Progressive Era, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War
- Experience history from a Biblical perspective on a trip to D.C.
- Consider and express faith-immersed, engaged citizenship at local, national, and global levels

SCIENCE (PHYSICAL SCIENCE)

- Explore and explain fundamental principles of chemistry. Conduct lab experiments to observe matter at the macroscopic and the microscopic level.
- Explore and explain core principles of physics by using physical models, crash simulations, and data analysis to explore how forces alter the motion of objects and energy transforms within a system. Apply basic math to concepts.
- Explore and explain the invisible forces of magnetism, electricity, and electromagnetism. Gain deeper knowledge and appreciation for God's governing scientific principles and laws.
- Investigate how energy transfers through various wave types, discovering how we perceive sound and light, and how modern technology uses waves to transmit information
- Use scientific vocabulary and diagrams to describe the structure and function of the circulatory and visual systems. Safely perform dissections to gain deeper appreciation for the complexity of God-given life.
- Understand human sexuality and the human reproductive cycle from a Christian perspective: physical, social, and emotional changes in adolescence; mitosis; meiosis; relationship choices
- Apply the scientific method to a research-based capstone project and present findings in the middle school science fair

SPEAKING & LISTENING

- Communicate and listen effectively in collaborative groups
- Use evidence to give and explain an argument
- Analyze the effect of acting and expression to understand a play
- Communicate with group members and resolve conflict

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Increase personal muscular and cardiorespiratory fitness
- Demonstrate the ability to take responsibility for their own body composition and nutrition
- Create various workouts based on targeted muscle groups
- Explain how different exercises strengthen different muscle groups
- Explain various systems of the human body
- Perform and explain basic fundamentals and tactics of team sports
- Identify Christian decisions relating to competition

CONCERT BAND

- Enjoy music as a gift from God and share musical gifts positively within the community
- Turn setbacks into growth opportunities for personal and music growth through reflection and goal setting
- Listen attentively as musicians and fellow human beings
- Demonstrate proper breathing mechanics for 8-measure phrases
- Correctly perform all major, minor, and chromatic scales
- Correctly articulate legato, staccato, accent, and slur markings
- Correctly perform intermediate meters, rhythms, dynamics, and fingerings
- Develop skill mastery in a community environment

GEOMETRY (ELECTIVE)

- Experiment with transformations in the plane
- Make geometric constructions
- Prove and use theorems involving congruence and similarity
- Define trigonometric ratios and solve problems using right triangles
- Understand the apply theorems about circles