



EIGHTH GRADE HIGHLIGHTS

OVERALL

The 8th grade year at DCS is a year to look forward to! We have challenging academics and a curriculum that encourages students to be thinking intentionally about their faith and their role in the class this year. Students have new opportunities to participate in student council, 8th grade retreats, a PE program with off-campus opportunities, chapel leadership, and as class officers. The students grow academically and spiritually as they get ready to move on to high school.

BIBLE

The eighth grade curriculum has a thematic approach that replaces the chronological approach employed in the preschool- sixth grade curriculum. Our study of the Bible concentrates on the New Testament. We explore the history of the church, beginning with the birth and ministry of Jesus through Revelation, and continuing to the present.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The goal for students is to build a solid foundation of our country's history. In doing so we can learn how the past is part of us and can begin to understand who we are. When we learn these things, we can begin the process of becoming active Christian citizens in our nation, world, and God's kingdom.

MATH

Eighth grade math is set up to prepare our students to take Algebra I as freshmen in high school. Students that are currently taking Algebra I will be prepared to take geometry the following year.

SCIENCE

Eighth grade science becomes more challenging with the physical science content areas of chemistry and physics. Students will build on the foundation of collaboration and critical thinking that has been developed in 7th grade as they prepare for the rigors of high school science next year.





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READING

Class novels that we read and study together are Long Walk to Water and Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry. Civil War themed books and books authored by Gary Schmidt are read using the format of literature circles. We also engage in a poetry unit. Students are required to complete trimester book goals from the different genres of informational, biography, mystery, fiction, poetry, and fantasy. We work on comprehension strategies, vocabulary, and literary elements of tone and mood, theme, characterization, and irony.

ENRICHMENT

Accountability Groups, Exploratory classes, grade level retreats in the fall and winter, a variety of off-campus PE activities, 8th grade play, chocolate business sale, year end class trip, and our graduation ceremony. Students have the opportunity to participate in the National Spelling and Geography Bees, intramurals, math competitions, robotics, and extra curricular sports. A class trip to Cedar Point is a highlight for many students!

WRITING

Various types of writing are done throughout the eighth grade year while focusing on the different Six Traits of Writing. Some of the formal papers written this year are compare and contrast paragraphs, a personal narrative, story, persuasive essay, faith reflection paper, and a research paper. Writing outlines, thesis statements, citing sources throughout a paper, and creating a works cited page using MLA formatting are aspects that are taught as well. The grammar units are on the eight parts of speech, sentences, capitalization and punctuation, phrases, and verbals, which are also woven into the writing instruction.

CO-CURRICULAR

Middle school students participate weekly in art, Spanish, technology, & physical education. They also have the opportunity to participate in band, choir, or orchestra.

