

8th Grade Curriculum

Bible (one of two curriculums)

LifeWay Book Publication – *Survival Quest*

This Bible course presents an in-depth Scriptural study of the lives of Old or New Testament characters. Using both positive and negative examples, students learn from the context of these individual lives how to face both the challenges of every-day living and the test of overwhelming experiences. The emphasis extends beyond surviving to thriving in the midst of such circumstances as they learn the true meaning of Romans 1:37, “yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

LifeWay Book Publication – *Character Quest*

This Bible course for students starts out with an introductory chapter on why the issue of character is so important. Thirty-four character traits are presented from a Biblical perspective throughout the year. One trait per week is the topic of study whereby the students engage in a variety of creative experiences including a study of Scripture, definitions, and descriptions. They study the importance of the character trait, the cautions regarding its negative counter-part, and practical applications to everyday living. Emphasis is placed on the importance of a vital, growing relationship with Jesus Christ and that He is the one who helps us develop character in our lives.

Reading and Literature

A Beka Book Publication – *Of Places Literature*

This series consists of stories and poems that aid in the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual growth of the students. The variety of these quality stories is exceptional. The students are exposed to different ages, races, perspectives, nationalities, cultures, and economic levels. The students become aware of different situations, values, and the morals of others, which helps facilitate positive relationships with other students in the class. We do a variety of group activities to promote cooperative learning. Some activities include think-pair-share games, higher level thinking activities, and writing prompts. There are many opportunities for the students to learn the nature of God and to become a stronger, more discerning Christian with the stories and lessons provided.

Spelling and Vocabulary

A Beka Book Publication – *Vocabulary Spelling Poetry II*

Eighth graders take weekly spelling tests and do activities promoting the establishment of a larger vocabulary. Included in this curriculum is also a poetry section, where the students are required to memorize two poems for each of the four nine-week quarters. By memorizing poetry, we are promoting both oral language and memory skills and also provide an understanding of the English language.

English

A Beka Book Publication – *Grammar and Composition II*

We have chosen to have the students focus on this book for both seventh and eighth grade to ensure mastery of all skills. Students learn capitalization punctuation, sentence structure and identification, and recognition and uses of verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. The composition units include the writing process;

- how to use various literary resources and reference books

- how to develop and compose paragraphs
- how to create book reports
- how to create your own writing style
- how to plan, write, rewrite and edit a research paper.

Students also compose writings in their journals once a week to promote recreational writing and apply writing skills to everyday tasks.

Mathematics

A Beka Book Publication – *Pre-Algebra Basic Mathematics II Series*

Students learn about math as part of truth and order that God has created for us in our world. More specifically, we are able to make connections about different facts and apply math into everyday life. Eighth graders learn operations with whole numbers, fractions, and mixed numbers, ratio and proportion, percentages and their various applications, measurement, algebraic methods and problem solving, plane and solid geometry including perimeter, area and volume, and introduction to the Pythagorean Rule and trigonometry. The practice problems in our lessons focus on mastery of the skill that is presented that day. The problem-solving section of our lesson focuses on the application of mathematics to real life while promoting critical thinking using decoding skills to solve each problem.

A Bob Jones University Book Publication – *Algebra I*

The study of Algebra carries the connotation of the reunion of broken parts. It is a structured system for expressing and analyzing the relationships between quantities that may themselves be known. During Algebra, students will be exposed to the language of mathematics, the properties of the real number system, polynomials, factoring and logical thinking exercises.

Science

A Beka Book Publication – *Matter and Motion*

Students are introduced to components of physics and chemistry. They will study the types of matter that make up our physical universe and how that matter interacts and recombines to form new substances with the emphasis on matter and energy changes. They will learn that God is not limited as we study the vastness of the universe to the smallest particles of nature.

Scope and sequence:

- the heavens – galaxies, constellations, planets, stars and moons
- man and the universe
- solids in motion
- liquids in motion
- heat – molecules in motion
- science vs evolution
- magnets and magnetism
- electricity

History (one of two curriculums)

A Beka Book Publication – *History of the World in Christian Perspective*

Students will be taught one of these two different studies at the junior high level. The students study an overview of World History from Creation through the early twenty-first century with special features:

- highlighted key names, dates, and events
- terms, time lines, and maps

God's sovereignty is emphasized in His creation, the advent and work of Christ, and His promised second coming which will bring history to an end. The students get a glimpse of the world's great civilizations, leaders, wars, and philosophies.

A Beka Book Publication – *America: Land I Love in Christian Perspective*

Students study the discovery, settlements, development and growth of America. The class views American history with an emphasis on the people and events that shaped American character. This class includes:

- journal excerpts
- patriotic writings
- direct quotations
- Presidential profiles
- terms, factual and conceptual questions

Music

Choir provides opportunity for students in 7th – 12th grades to develop and strengthen their vocal musical skills and abilities. A variety of musical styles from different time periods are presented throughout the year with the main focus being music that honors and glorifies the Lord. Performing opportunities include school concerts, contests, community outreach, and service events. Opportunity for solo and ensemble singing is also provided through participation in region and state music contests.

Band

Prerequisite: student must know how to read music and play a band instrument. This course is designed to provide students with opportunities for performing with the full band and also to explore solo and ensemble playing. The high school band covers concert band material, with 2-3 concerts per year. The band also plays pep band music, performs at home basketball games, and 1-2 tournaments each year. In addition, students have the opportunity to be part of ensembles and to play solos for the music festival held in our region each spring. Many of our ensembles and soloists receive star ratings and move on to the state music festival to compete at the higher level. Junior high students also have the opportunity to participate in a music festival that is not as competitive. Many of our students have had the opportunity to perform in honor bands sponsored by various universities and organizations in our area.

Physical Education

The Physical Education classes are centered on participation, sportsmanship and fitness. Many different units are presented throughout the semester giving students a varied experience with games, sports, weight-lifting, and fitness programs. The classes are daily for one semester with a coed mix of 7th-8th graders.