



St. Cyprian's

— *Episcopal School* —

Middle School

Course Description Guide

2019-2020

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Middle School Course Description Guide

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Cyprian's Episcopal School is to be a community of learners where students are challenged to achieve their highest academic, spiritual and physical potentials in a Christian setting.

The SCES Middle School Course Description Guide is a publication developed to assist all students and their parents regarding information critical to academic success. Course selections and descriptions are included in this guidebook. Although this is a primary tool for student registration, we strongly encourage that you refer to it throughout the school year as a resource for questions that you may have concerning instructional programs and courses at SCES. We are available to answer questions or to explain information.

State Testing Requirements for Middle School Students

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels will take state mandated assessments, such as the STAAR, in the following subjects:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3-8
- Reading, annually in grades 3-8
- Writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades 4 and 7
- Science in grades 5 and 8
- Social Studies in grade 8

Earning High School Credit in Middle School

St. Cyprian's Episcopal School offers two courses which may be taken for high school credit. With the successful completion of these courses, students are awarded credit which appears on their high school academic achievement record or transcript. Parents and students should read the following regulations which concern these high school level courses. In order for students to enroll in these courses, parents and students must sign an acknowledgement of understanding.

The following courses are offered to middle school students for high school credit:

- Algebra I
- Spanish I

REQUIREMENTS, GRADING, AND CREDIT

These courses are advanced level courses and have more rigorous requirements than middle school level courses. Students will be required to complete assignments and take tests that the same courses would require in high school.

- Semester exams are required in these courses. The semester exam grade will be one-seventh of the semester average.
- A student must achieve an average of "70" or above for the semester in order to obtain high school credit for that semester.

- Students enrolled in high school level courses still must meet the eighth grade promotion standards. For example, students enrolled in STEM Math must achieve a yearly average of “70” or above in this math course in order to be promoted to the ninth grade.
- All grades earned in high school level courses become a permanent part of the student’s academic achievement record.
- Students enrolled in Algebra I will be required to take a STAAR end of course exam.
- Students may NOT combine two semesters of different courses for one unit of credit.
- Students will be required to complete a minimum of three additional math credits during the ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades. Enrollment in math and science courses is recommended for grade twelve, as well.
- In the event of questions related to credit for high school courses, all classes taken for high school credit will be governed by St. Cyprian’s Episcopal School credit rules.

Electives

Think Tank Factory

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Students will explore the past, present, and future using higher level thinking skills. Students who choose this class should be self-directed and should enjoy completing creative projects that include research and communication skills. The class requires the completion of one independent project during the semester in the core curriculum areas of math, science, and/or language arts.

Real World Robotics/Drones

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

In this course, students will design, program and build robots. They will be fully engaged in the engineering experience and use 21st century skills such as communication and teamwork. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles have entered the mainstream of technology. They are currently being used in many amazing ways and there will be a tremendous need for designers and pilots. In this course students will apply real-world math and science concepts while problem solving and learn safety considerations, drone equipment and parts, basics of flight, flight skills, and FAA regulations while applying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math skills. Students will also investigate different fields using drone technology for military, commercial, and personal use.

Health & Wellness

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Length: Semester

In this class, students will apply knowledge of personal responsibility for health promotion and/or risk reduction. The students will study patterns of healthy behaviors to prevent or reduce their risk of injury and/or illness throughout their lifespan. Students also will examine the interrelationships of emotional, physical, social, and intellectual health and how they can be impacted by their surroundings.

***One semester required per school year.**

Physical Education

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

In Physical Education students acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. The student exhibits a physically active lifestyle and understands the relationship between physical activity and health throughout the life span.

***One semester required per school year.**

Young Entrepreneurs/Shark Tank Jr.

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

In this course, students gain knowledge and skills in economies and private enterprise systems, the impact of global business, marketing of goods and services, advertising, and product pricing. Students analyze the sales process and financial management principles. This course allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities, problems and settings in business, marketing, and finance.

Digital Media

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

This course advances the students' knowledge and skills using technology. The course has applications in many careers, including graphic design, advertising, web design, animation, corporate communications, illustration, character development, script writing, storyboarding, directing, producing, inking, project management, editing, and the magazine, television, film, and game industries. Students in this course will produce various real-world projects and animations.

Engineering Design & Problem Solving

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Engineering design is the creative process of solving problems by identifying needs and then devising solutions. This solution may be a product, technique, structure, process, or many other things depending on the problem. This course is intended to stimulate students' ingenuity, intellectual talents, and practical skills in devising solutions to engineering design problems. Students use the engineering design process cycle to investigate, design, plan, create, and evaluate solutions. At the same time, this course fosters awareness of the social and ethical implications of technological development.

Horticulture/Outdoor Education

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

This course is designed to develop an understanding of horticultural. Students will participate in various projects focusing on plant growth and development. Students will gain understanding of creating gardens, conducting research, and awareness of environmental concerns affecting vegetation. Learning experiences will provide a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind.

Pathways

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Students will evaluate skills needed for personal career success, utilizing problem-solving and critical thinking skills to make informed decisions. Emphasis will be placed on job seeking skills including the importance of stress and time management as well as career goal setting. Students will utilize individualized career interest data to research the educational and certification requirements for a wide variety of careers.

***One semester required per school year.**

Performing Arts

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Students increase their understanding of heritage and traditions through historical and cultural studies in theatre. Student response and evaluation promote thinking and further discriminating judgment, developing students who are appreciative and evaluative consumers of live theatre, film, television, and other technologies. Through a variety of theatrical experiences, students communicate in a dramatic form, make artistic choices, solve problems, and build positive self-concepts. Additionally, students will experience theatrical elements, such as scene study, costuming, and theatrical makeup techniques.

Art & Design

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

This course advances the students' knowledge and skills using the elements and principles of art thinking. Students will create more conceptually and have experiences that will enable them to express creative ideas through a variety of mediums: design, drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. The focus is to create conceptually, refine art making skills, and the art making process.

SCES Voices

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Students will have the opportunity to perform music of various genres. Participants will practice appropriate solo, small and large ensemble performance techniques, choreography, and sight-singing, both using a microphone and projecting the voice without electronic amplification. Students will have opportunities to perform in community functions and school performances.

English Language Arts

English Language Arts 6

Length: Year

Grade: 6

Sixth grade students will explore the essential academic elements of English. Students master previously learned skills in increasingly complex presentations, reading selections, and written compositions. Sixth grade students take notes during oral presentations, organize and summarize spoken messages, and evaluate their own oral presentations. The students will read widely in classic and contemporary selections and informational texts. The students will be able to select and to use different forms of writing for specific purposes such as to inform, to persuade, or to entertain. Sixth grade students will evaluate the purposes and effects of film, print, and technology presentations.

English Language Arts 7

Length: Year

Grade: 7

In grade seven, students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex presentations and reading selections. Students evaluate a spoken message in terms of its content, credibility and delivery and continue to read widely in classic and contemporary selections and informational texts. Students edit their writing based on their knowledge of grammar and usage, spelling, punctuation, and other conventions of written language. The students will draw data from multiple primary and secondary sources for use in research reports and projects. Writing instruction focuses on generation and organization of ideas, using different prewriting techniques. Revision and editing skills are also stressed as students produce all modes of writing – persuasive, informational, and narrative. Grammar instruction emphasizes identification and usage of parts of speech, sentence structures, and punctuation.

English Language Arts 8

Length: Year

Grade: 8

In grade eight, students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex presentations, reading selections, and writing. The students will read widely in classic and contemporary selections and informational texts and will identify characteristics of various literary forms. Students will produce multi-paragraph compositions with varied sentence structure. Eighth grade students present oral and written reports, including presentations strengthened by visuals and media. Various types of literature, such as poetry, drama, short stories, nonfiction and novels will be used as springboards for the writing of literary analysis. Students will be expected to do independent reading to prepare themselves for specific writing projects. Students also will focus on the analysis of language and literature and will develop critical reading skills. Students will then apply those analysis skills in their writing. Emphasis will be placed on the development of voice and style in writing.

Foreign Language

Spanish

Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

In these courses, students will be exposed to introductory lessons in the study of the Spanish language. Students will understand short utterances when listening and will respond orally with learned material. Students will be exposed and respond in Spanish to real-world scenarios including topics such as ordering in restaurants, making phone calls, medical and travel phrases, and shopping. Students also will recognize the importance in communication to know about the culture.

***One semester required per school year.**

Spanish I

Length: Year

Grade: 8

In this course students will demonstrate an understanding of simple, clearly spoken, and written language. Students will develop an understanding of the practices and perspectives of the cultures studied; use the language to obtain, reinforce, or expand knowledge of other subject areas; demonstrate an understanding of the influence of language and culture on another; and use the language both within and beyond the school setting through activities such as participating in cultural events and using technology to communicate.

***Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish**

****Note: This course is offered for high school credit**

Mathematics

STEM Math 6

Length: Year

Grade: 6

Sixth grade students will explore the essential academic elements of mathematics. In this course, the primary focal points are ratios and proportions, equations and inequalities, rational number and integer operations, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and financial literacy. The students will build a foundation of basic understandings in number and quantitative reasoning, patterns, relationships, algebraic thinking, geometry, measurement, and statistics. Students also will use problem solving in meaningful context, language and communication, connections within and outside mathematics, and formal and informal reasoning along with technology to develop conceptual understanding and to solve problems in mathematics. Students will use graphing technology, along with other mathematical tools, to develop conceptual understanding and to solve problems in mathematics.

STEM Math7

Length: Year

Grade: 7

Seventh grade students will explore the essential academic elements of mathematics. In this course, students will focus on proportional relationships, expressions and equations, probability and statistics, data analysis,

and financial literacy. The students will continue to build a foundation in number, operation, and quantitative reasoning; patterns, relationships, and algebraic thinking; geometry and spatial reasoning; measurement; and probability and statistics. Seventh grade students will use technology along with other mathematical tools such as manipulative materials to develop conceptual understanding and solve problems as they do mathematics.

Pre-Algebra

Length: Year

Grade: 7, 8

Pre-Algebra is an advanced math course. It is an in-depth study of introductory concepts necessary before taking Algebra I. Concepts of equations, integers, number theory, rational numbers, inequalities, percent and geometry are explored.

***Prerequisite for 7th grade: Completion of STEM Math 6 with an average of “90” or above and successful completion of a math readiness assessment. Student must have received met standard or mastered on STAAR. Students who score “met standard” and choose this class will be accepted on a probationary status.**

****Note: This course is offered for high school credit**

Algebra I

Length: Year

Grade: 8

Algebra I is considered the entry course for studying the higher mathematics strand, which will include Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. In this advanced and rigorous course, students will explore real-life application of mathematic concepts, including functional relationships, linear functions, quadratic and non-linear functions, patterns, algebraic thinking and reasoning, measurement, and probability/statistics. The curriculum and the instructional strategies will facilitate critical thinking and problem solving skills. Cooperative learning, project-based learning, and inquiry-based learning will be common practices in this challenging course.

***Prerequisite for 8th grade: Completion of Pre-Algebra with an average of “90” or above and successful completion of a math readiness assessment. Student must have received met standard or mastered on STAAR. Students who score “met standard” and choose this class will be accepted on a probationary status.**

****Note: This course is offered for high school credit**

Science

STEM Science 6

Length: Year

Grade: 6

Sixth grade students will explore the essential academic elements of science. In grade six, the study of science includes conducting field and laboratory investigations using scientific methods, analyzing data, making informed decisions, and using tools such as beakers, test tubes, and spring scales to collect, analyze and record information. Students also use computers and information technology tools to support scientific investigations. The students will identify components of the solar system, investigate the rock cycle, identify sources of water, identify changes in objects when acted upon by a force, and identify life processes.

STEM Science 7

Length: Year

Grade: 7

Seventh grade students will explore the essential academic elements of science. In grade seven, students will conduct field and laboratory investigations using scientific methods, critical thinking, and problem solving. They will use tools such as weather instruments and calculators to collect and to analyze information in explaining a phenomenon. Students also use computers and information technology tools to support scientific investigations.

STEM Science 8

Length: Year

Grade: 8

In grade eight, the study of science includes planning and conducting field and laboratory investigations using scientific methods, analyzing data, critical thinking, scientific problem solving, and using tools such as telescopes to collect and analyze information. Students also use computers and information technology tools to support scientific investigations. The students will identify the roles of both human activities and natural events in altering Earth systems. They will examine information on the periodic table, predict outcomes from different genetic combinations, and explore the extinction of some species.

Social Studies

World History

Length: Year

Grade: 6

Sixth grade students will explore the essential academic elements of social studies. In grade six, students study people and places of the contemporary world. Societies selected for study are chosen from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Middle America, South America, Southwest Asia-North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Realm. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of selected societies. To support the teaching of the essential knowledge and skills, the students will use a variety of rich primary and secondary source materials such as biographies and autobiographies, novels, speeches, letters, poetry, songs, and artwork.

Texas History

Length: Year

Grade: 7

Seventh grade students will explore the essential academic elements of social studies. In grade seven, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including the cultures of Native Americans living in Texas prior to European exploration and the eras of mission-building, colonization, revolution, republic and statehood. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. Students identify regions of Texas and the distribution of population within and among the regions and explain the factors that caused Texas to change from an agrarian to an urban society. The students describe the structure and functions of municipal, county, and state governments, explain the influence of the U.S. Constitution on the Texas Constitution, and examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens.

US History**Length: Year****Grade: 8**

Students in grade eight will study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early Republic, westward expansion, sectionalism, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. The students will analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of the early years of the Republic and will examine American beliefs and principles.

101 Great Books

Recommended for College-Bound Readers by the College Board

Beowulf
The Woman Warrior (Maxine Hong Kingston)
Things Fall Apart (Chinua Achebe)
To Kill a Mockingbird (Harper Lee)
A Death in the Family (James Agee)
Babbitt (Sinclair Lewis)
Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen)
The Call of the Wild (Jack London)
Go Tell It on the Mountain (James Baldwin)
The Magic Mountain (Thomas Mann)
Waiting for Godot (Samuel Beckett)
One Hundred Years of Solitude (Gabriel Garcia Marquez)
The Adventures of Augie March (Saul Bellow)
Bartleby the Scrivener (Herman Melville)
Jane Eyre (Charlotte Bronte)
Moby Dick (Herman Melville)
Wuthering Heights (Emily Bronte)
The Crucible (Arthur Miller)
The Stranger (Albert Camus)
Beloved (Toni Morrison)
Death Comes for the Archbishop (Willa Cather)
A Good Man is Hard to Find (Flannery O'Connor)
The Canterbury Tales (Geoffrey Chaucer)
Long Day's Journey into Night (Eugene O'Neill)
The Cherry Orchard (Anton Chekov)
Animal Farm (George Orwell)
The Awakening (Kate Chopin)
Doctor Zhivago (Boris Pasternak)
Heart of Darkness (Joseph Conrad)
The Bell Jar (Sylvia Plath)
The Last of the Mohicans (James Fenimore Cooper)
Selected Tales (Edgar Allan Poe)
The Red Badge of Courage (Stephen Crane)
Swann's Way (Marcel Proust) Inferno (Dante)
The Crying of Lot 49 (Thomas Pynchon)
Don Quixote (Miguel de Cervantes)
All Quiet on the Western Front (Erich Maria Remarque)
Robinson Crusoe (Daniel Defoe)
Cyrano de Bergerac (Edmond Rostand)
A Tale of Two Cities (Charles Dickens)
Call It Sleep (Henry Roth)
Crime and Punishment (Fyodor Dostoyevsky)
The Catcher in the Rye (J.D. Salinger)
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (Frederick Douglass)
Hamlet (William Shakespeare)
An American Tragedy (Theodore Dreiser)
Macbeth (William Shakespeare)
The Three Musketeers (Alexandre Dumas)
A Midsummer Night's Dream (William Shakespeare)
The Mill on the Floss (George Eliot)
Romeo and Juliet (William Shakespeare)
Invisible Man (Ralph Ellison)
Pygmalion (George Bernard Shaw)
Selected Essays (Ralph Waldo Emerson)
Frankenstein (Mary Shelley)
As I Lay Dying (William Faulkner)
Ceremony (Leslie Marmon Silko)
The Sound and the Fury (William Faulkner)
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich (Alexander Solzhenitsyn)
Tom Jones (Henry Fielding)
Antigone (Sophocles)
The Great Gatsby (F. Scott Fitzgerald)
Oedipus Rex (Sophocles)
Madame Bovary (Gustave Flaubert)
The Grapes of Wrath (John Steinbeck)
The Good Soldier (Ford Madox Ford)
Treasure Island (Robert Louis Stevenson)
Faust (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harriet Beecher Stowe)
Lord of the Flies (William Golding)
Gulliver's Travels (Jonathan Swift)
Tess of the D'Urbervilles (Thomas Hardy)
Vanity Fair (William Thackeray)
The Scarlet Letter (Nathaniel Hawthorne)
Walden (Henry David Thoreau)
Catch 22 (Joseph Heller)
War and Peace (Leo Tolstoy)
A Farewell to Arms (Ernest Hemingway)
Fathers and Sons (Ivan Turgenev)
The Iliad (Homer)
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Mark Twain)
The Odyssey (Homer)
Candide (Voltaire)
The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Victor Hugo)
Slaughterhouse-Five (Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.)
Their Eyes Were Watching God (Nora Neale Hurston)
The Color Purple (Alice Walker)
Brave New World (Aldous Huxley)
The House of Mirth (Edith Wharton)
A Doll's House (Henrik Ibsen)
Collected Stories (Eudora Welty)
The Portrait of a Lady (Henry James)
Leaves of Grass (Walt Whitman)
The Turn of the Screw (Henry James)
The Picture of Dorian Gray (Oscar Wilde)
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (James Joyce)
The Glass Menagerie (Tennessee Williams)
The Metamorphosis (Franz Kafka)
To the Lighthouse (Virginia Woolf) Native Son (Richard Wright)