



## SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM

### **INTRODUCTION**

Christian Education must develop not only cognitive knowledge and the accumulation of facts, but must involve an internalization of God's truth. It is our aim in every subject area to teach truth and to teach students to evaluate facts in the light of truth. This is accomplished through the following steps:

\*Researching God's Word to discover basic principles of life and of every academic subject.

A principle is the source, origin or cause of a thing; the foundational truth upon which all the facts rest;

\*Reasoning from these principles to identify the proper interpretation of facts;

\*Relating of Biblical principles to each student's personal life.

### **CHAPEL**

Once a week, the faculty and student body in grades in the secondary grades gather together to express devotion to our Lord through praise and worship. The first Wednesday of the month the whole school meets for Chapel. Biblical truths and principles of life are taught by our staff, pastors and guest speakers. We welcome parents to attend with their children and worship with us.

### **BIBLICAL STUDIES**

Bible study is an integral part of the school curriculum at Crosshill Christian School. The Scriptures are studied in such a way that a child will discover and be able to apply the relevance of the Bible and its principles to everyday situations and experiences. Students study in a classroom environment where a variety of approaches and techniques are used to discover Biblical meanings and principles. Interwoven into the curriculum is a Godly character application designed to stimulate character development within each student. 7th grade uses *A Study in Christian Ethics* by James Bramblet for its curriculum.

### **GRAMMAR/WRITING**

Crosshill Middle School uses the *Grammar and Writing* curriculum from Hake Publishing, authors of *Saxon Math. Grammar and Writing* is a rigorous English language arts series designed to help students learn and remember the skills and concepts that will enable them to be successful communicators. The comprehensive program covers English grammar, writing, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary development.

Our grammar and writing curriculum will:

- Develop the basic concepts of grammar: eight parts of speech, sentence structure, sentence diagramming, capitalization, punctuation, and correct word usage.
- Daily vocabulary practice, spelling rules, and weekly spelling tests in the form of dictation.
- Writing lessons that will cover brainstorming, outlining, re-writing, evaluation, and all the parts of the complete, well-structured essay. In addition to persuasive essays, expository essays, research papers,

descriptive essays, and personal narratives, students write imaginative stories, poetry, and responses to literature and informational texts.

As students progress through the textbook, the topics increase in depth and complexity. The grammar textbook contains age-appropriate references to art, music, literature, poetry, science, history, and geography.

## **READING**

The middle school Language Arts program is designed to increase competency in reading comprehension, composition, vocabulary, spelling and oral skills to cultivate a solid foundation for a lifetime love of literature.

Our reading program centers around the *SRA Reading Laboratory*. This program offers the ability to provide a range of reading levels that encourages students to learn independently and at their own pace. Reading Laboratory is a leveled reading program which provides individualized reading instruction to a whole class of students.

This program will:

- Develop comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, word analysis, and study skills
- Reinforce specific skills in which certain students show a weakness
- Engage students' interest and increase their knowledge base using a wide array of fiction and nonfiction selections
- Promote independent student work

## **MATHEMATICS**

Students may qualify for Honors math based on the WRAT Arithmetic Level I and II test scores, SAT math scores, previous math grades, and previous teacher recommendation. Students in the honors Math program are advanced to the next grade level, thus ensuring a more challenging program that motivates them to work at their ability level.

The A Beka math curriculum is used for Math I and Pre-Algebra, and Merrill, Algebra I. This is a complete math program that provides daily activities including oral drill, the teachings and practice of new material, and review of basic facts. Games are used to reinforce skills learned during lessons. Besides training students in the basic skills that are needed in life, the mathematics curriculum teaches students to believe in absolutes, to work diligently to get right answers and to see facts of mathematics as part of the truth and order that God has built into the real universe.

Critical thinking skills are incorporated into daily problem solving, helping students see the connections among a variety of math topics. Problems emphasize real-world situations, reinforcing the importance of mathematics in students' daily lives. Students are taught that there are different methods for solving all problems including drawing a picture, guess and check, making a table or chart, looking for a pattern, working backwards, writing equations, etc.

### **Basic Mathematics I:**

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| *Maintaining skills in fundamental operations | *Basic geometric concepts |
| *Development and use of formulas              | *Factoring                |
| *Reading and constructing graphs              | *Ratio and proportion     |
| *Introduction to algebra                      | *Application of percent   |
| *Negative numbers                             | *Personal finances        |
| *Powers and roots                             | *Metric system            |
| *Time zones, latitude and longitude           | *Fractions and decimals   |
| *Introduction to plane and solid geometry     |                           |

### **Pre-Algebra (Grade 7 Honors Math)**

- \*Maintaining skills in fundamental operations
- \*Business math
- \*Earning income
- \*Banking
- \*Stocks and bonds
- \*Insurance
- \*Basic plane and solid geometry concepts
- \*Principles of mathematics
- \*Multiplying and dividing monomials
- \*Problem solving strategies
- \*Word problems solved algebraically
- \*Perimeter, area, surface area and volume
  - \*Scientific notation
- \*Statistics and probability
- \*English and metric measures
- \*Basic algebraic concepts
- \*Signed numbers
- \*Powers and roots
- \*Like and unlike terms
- \*Properties of geometric figures
- \*Constructing geometric figures
- \*Graphical scale drawings
  - \*Pythagorean rule
  - \*Sine, cosine, and tangent
  - \*Reading and constructing graphs

### **Honors Algebra (Algebra I-traditional approach)**

Students must pass twelve competency tests (+, -, x, ÷) of whole numbers, fractions and decimals and have a “B” average in Pre-Algebra to be advanced to Algebra I.

- \*Algebraic properties and real numbers
- \*Systems of linear equation including graphing and slope
- \*Solving quadratics and applications
- \*Writing, applying formulas and solving for variables
- \*Factoring-includes solving quadratics by factoring
- \*Irrationals- includes solving formulas of second degree for variable
- \*Algebraic fractions
- \*Linear equations in one variable
- \*Polynomials
- \*Relations and functions
- \*Inequalities in one and two variables

### **HISTORY**

The Middle School program at Crosshill Christian School is presented with the firm conviction “that the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.” History, therefore, is a revelation of God in His dealings with man and the universe. Students need a realistic view of history, government, geography and economics based upon the foundational truths of the Scriptures.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade History:**

World Studies presents an up-to-date account of World History from a conservative, Christian perspective. This core textbook is a part of a well-rounded program designed to give students a deeper understanding of world history and a working knowledge of world geography. The goal of this text is fourfold: (1) to show God’s hand in history, (2) to teach the history of mankind from a Biblical perspective, (3) to emphasize the role of individuals in history, and (4) to teach the many lessons that can be learned from history.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade History**

*The American Republic* presents the history of America from the 1490's to the 1990's with special emphasis on the personalities and events that shaped the American character. A variety of illustrations, maps and photographs invite students to explore the past as they study a narrative account of U.S. history. Through the story of America’s rise to greatness, students learn to recognize the hand of God in history and to appreciate the influence of Christianity in government, economics and society.

The entire history program is designed to develop good reading and study skills including note-taking, identifying cause and effect, critical thinking and test taking.

## **SCIENCE**

Seventh and Eighth grade students at Crosshill Christian School are in mixed grade classes with a two year curriculum cycle. The Middle School earth science curriculum presents science in the perspective of the founders of modern science: the belief that God is the Creator of the universe and the Originator of its order, reason and reality, and that science is one way for man to control and master the physical world for the benefit of mankind. Science units are developed to give students a solid foundation in the areas of astronomy, earth and physical science-a foundation firmly anchored to Scriptural truth. Science versus the false philosophy of evolution is carefully presented to give students a clear understanding of God's truth. Specialty science teachers occasionally augment the regular science program providing expertise in the teaching of astronomy, chemistry, physics and various topics in the physical sciences.

The alternate years' curriculum is Bob Jones' Life Science, a survey course touching all the major areas of life science. Students will explore the living world from cellular biology and genetics to zoology and ecology, and coastal intertidal zones stressing concepts significant to all Christians and emphasizing areas particularly important to Christian philosophy. The material is presented from a worldview that establishes the authority of scripture and man's responsibility to his Creator.

Every third year, there is a school-wide Science Fair. Each 7th and 8th grader that year will choose a topic to investigate, write a research paper to defend the topic, and use the scientific method to plan and carry out an experiment. They will also produce a display board for the Science Fair judging/Open House evening in March or April of that year.

## **ELECTIVES**

Our students at Crosshill Christian School have been uniquely and individually endowed with natural gifts from their creator, God. It is our desire to develop these gifts through special classes that enhance the foundational courses and develop multiple skills. Students will select their elective classes at the beginning of each school year.

Students may also choose from these electives when offered:

Band	Drama
Choir/Vocal Training	Rocketry
Computer	Visual Art
PE	Team Sports
Speech	Intro to Theater
Survival 101	Games of Strategy
Strength Training	Foods
Spanish	

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Fitness and skill development are the primary goals of the program. Students participate in exercises to promote cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, and flexibility. Basic motor and manipulative skills are sequenced or combined for greater movement challenges. Games, relays and drills are designed to enhance skill related fitness or specific sport skills. Partner and group activities are used to meet growing social needs while emphasizing individual development.

## **ACSI ACTIVITIES**

Throughout the year there are opportunities for students to participate in various ASCI sponsored academic competitions with students from other Christian schools. Competitions at the classroom level select student

representatives from CCS for the ACSI Spelling Bee, Speech Meet, Science Fair and Math Olympics.

## **ATHLETICS**

Our athletic program is designed for those students who have an interest and ability for advanced levels of sports competition. Students will receive training in sports skills, strategy, etiquette and character development with an opportunity to represent Crosshill Christian School. Our middle school participates in boys/girls cross country, co/ed soccer and girls' volleyball in the fall, girls' and boys' basketball in the winter, and track and field for grades fifth through eighth in the spring.

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