

*8th Grade*

*Curriculum Guide*

Northside Christian Academy  
Curriculum Guide

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Subject: Bible

Grade: 8

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**Philosophy Statement**

The Bible department at Northside Christian Academy acknowledges these foundational truths: the Bible is the inspired Word of God, Jesus was who He claimed to be – the Incarnate Son of God, and salvation is found in Christ alone. We desire to study, confirm, and apply these truths in the lives of our students.

**Course Description**

This course is designed to promote the story of God and His people. Grade eight will study New Testament teachings and focus on the ministry of Christ through the beginning of the Church age. This course study will immerse students in the stories and other writings in the Bible so that they may grow in knowledge, wisdom, sensitivity, and creativity.

**General Course Goals**

- The student will be able to identify and distinguish between the four Gospels.
- The student will be able to distinguish the kingdom of Christ compared to the kingdom of the world.
- The student will be able to identify the requirements of following Christ which encounter faith and a willingness to serve.
- The students will be able to describe, through His words and actions, that Jesus is the Messiah.
- The students will be able to identify the Resurrection and Ascension and how Jesus prepares His disciples to be witnesses.
- The students will be able to identify how the Holy Spirit empowered early, persecuted Christians to spread the Gospel.
- The students will memorize Paul’s missionary journeys and certain letters used to strengthen faith.
- The students will discover and identify how Paul brought Christ’s name before kings and governors and how he witnessed to the world through hardships.
- The students will identify and memorize how the authors of Hebrews, John and Revelation refute false teachings, encourage, and assure the Church of God’s ultimate victory over Satan.
- The students will be able to identify the creed, canon and the organization the church established to fight heresies.

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *A story of God and His people, A Light to the Gentiles*, CSI 1998
- *A Light to the Gentiles*, video series
- Bible

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, five times per week
- Course length: two semesters

**Assessment**

- Nine memory verse quizzes and two exams per quarter
- One project per semester, presented in both oral and written format
- Homework checked as assigned

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Curriculum Guide

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Subject: Earth Science

Grade: 8

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**Philosophy Statement**

Throughout the Scriptures nature is used to illustrate Biblical principles. In Proverbs, the instruction is to look at the ant for work habits. The book of Romans reminds everyone that one simply needs to look at nature to see the hand of God. Because of this vital link between nature and Scripture, it is important for students to have a thorough understanding of things created in order to know the Creator. The physical and biological sciences are the vehicles we can use to demonstrate His nature.

**Course Description**

Earth Science is a science course that exists to develop a Christian worldview through the medium of the non-living, material world, God's handiwork. The major topics covered include introductions to meteorology, oceanography, and geology.

**General Course Goals**

- The student will be able to describe the atmosphere.
- The student will be able to identify the major parts and jobs of the lithosphere.
- The student will be able to describe the hydrosphere.
- The student will be able to describe the processes and structures of the earth.

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *Earth Science for Christian Schools, Third Edition*, BJU Press, 2005
- Teacher Edition from publisher
- Various labs based on thematic units

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, five times per week
- Course length: two semesters

**Assessment**

- One to two daily grades per week
- One test every two to three weeks
- Two to three projects per year
- Two cumulative exams
- Homework checked as assigned

Northside Christian Academy  
Curriculum Guide

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Subject: English

Grade: 8

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**Philosophy Statement**

The gift of language is one that sets humans apart from other parts of creation. Grammar helps the student to understand and express himself better. Writing helps the student to think clearly and also express himself to communicate a message. As Christians we have been commanded to spread the Gospel and to be ready always to give an answer to every man of the hope we have. The study of literature gives the student an opportunity to evaluate each selection in the light of God's Word. The student can also recognize truth and reaffirm it since all truth is God's truth. The study of the English language, literature and vocabulary is a valuable tool for our students as they prepare to allow God to use them.

**Course Description**

This course is designed to help the student to develop a deeper understanding of the English language and its literature and to increase the student's skill in writing and speaking the language. In addition to reviewing sentence structure, parts of speech, phrases, clauses, capitalization and punctuation, students learn new grammar concepts such as verbals and verbal phrases, subject/verb agreement, and pronoun/antecedent agreement. They are introduced to many new vocabulary terms, and read a variety of stories and novel selections based upon thematic units. In addition, 8<sup>th</sup> grade English students write summaries, essays, poetry, and responses to literary selections.

**General Course Goals**

- Review of sentence structure, parts of speech, phrases, clauses, capitalization, and punctuation
- Introduction to verbals, verbal phrases, subject/verb agreement, pronoun-antecedent agreement, pronoun usage, troublesome words,
- Introduction to vocabulary terms, prefixes, suffixes, and roots
- Reading a variety of stories based upon thematic units
- Writing summaries, essays, poetry

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *Writing and Grammar 8 for Christian Schools*, BJU Press, 2005
- *Excursions in Literature for Christian Schools*, BJU Press, 2000
- *Vocabulary for Christian Schools – Book B*, BJU Press, 2008
- *The Hiding Place* (novel)

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, five times per week
- Course length: two semesters

**Assessment**

- One-two daily grades/quizzes per week
- One test every three weeks
- One cumulative exam per semester
- Homework checked as assigned

Northside Christian Academy  
Curriculum Guide

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Subject: Pre-Algebra

Grade: 8

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**Philosophy Statement**

Mathematics develops a student's understanding of God's orderly nature and character. Since we have been commanded as His creation to subdue the earth and have dominion over it (Genesis 1:28), our approach to the created world must be in an ordered and sequential manner. The study of mathematics enables God's creation to better understand the order with which He made the universe and everything in it.

**Course Description**

This course is designed to prepare students for algebra, by building foundational algebra skills. Students are introduced to a variety of the fundamental principles associated with algebra such as: algebraic expressions, equations in one and two variables, writing equations, statistics, probability, and percents. The coordinate plane is further developed and used to graph equations, a system of equations, and inequalities.

**General Course Goals**

- The student will use variables and solve equations
- The student will use the four operations with integers, and also with positive and negative decimal numbers.
- The student will review number theory necessary for an understanding of fractions and learn the four basic operations with rational numbers.
- The student will solve equations using inverse operations.
- The student will review fundamental concepts of geometry and its language and notation.
- The student will study ratios and proportions and gain a working knowledge of percents.
- The student will apply percents to business, consumer, banking, and investment problems.
- The student will use transformations to solve equations and inequalities.
- The student will use the coordinate plane to unify numerical and algebraic concepts with geometric and visual concepts.
- The student will find area and volume.
- The student will be introduced to square root concepts and skills that lead to the study of right triangles.

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *Pre-Algebra: An Accelerated Course*, Houghton Mifflin, 1992
- Teacher Resource File from publisher
- Calculator
- Online Website: <http://www.glencoe.com/sec/math/prealg/prealg03/index.php4/na>

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, five times per week
- Course length: two semesters

**Assessment**

- Four to Six quizzes and one test per unit
- One semester exam and one cumulative exam
- Homework checked as assigned

Northside Christian Academy  
Curriculum Guide

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Subject: Algebra 1

Grades: 8-9

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**Philosophy Statement**

Mathematics develops a student's understanding of God's orderly nature and character. Since we have been commanded as His creation to subdue the earth and have dominion over it (Genesis 1:28), our approach to the created world must be in an ordered and sequential manner. The study of mathematics enables God's creation to better understand the order with which He made the universe and everything in it.

**Course Description**

This course will help the student to organize his thoughts to solve mathematical problems that he will meet in his everyday life. It will prepare him to continue his studies in mathematics and the sciences. The topics covered include real numbers, solving equations, factoring, problem solving, applying fractions, functions, systems of equations, inequalities, rational and irrational numbers, and quadratic equations.

**General Course Goals**

- Review the terminology and operations of basic algebra.
- Review solving equations and word problems.
- Perform basic math operations with polynomials.
- Factor polynomials and apply to problem-solving.
- Evaluate fractions and apply to problems.
- Define and analyze graphs and functions.
- Solve linear equations and inequalities.
- Define and evaluate expressions with square roots.
- Solve quadratic equations.

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *Algebra 1*, McDougal Littell, 1997
- Teacher resource file from publisher
- TI-36X Scientific Calculator (If a graphing calculator is preferred, a TI-83+ or equivalent is acceptable)

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, five times per week
- Course length: two semesters

**Assessment**

- One test per unit with partial chapter quizzes (one per week)
- One cumulative exam per semester
- Homework checked as assigned (will be graded on either completeness or correctness)

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Curriculum Guide

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Subject: Physical Education

Grades: 6-8

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**Philosophy Statement**

God's word teaches that the Christian's body is God's dwelling place, His temple. God has designed our bodies and has charged us with the responsibility to be good stewards of these bodies through which we serve God (1 Cor. 6:19-20). The more we know about our bodies and the factors that affect good social, mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health, the more we are able to make good health choices.

**Course Description**

This course is designed for students to demonstrate skills pertaining to various sports, compete in a Christ-like manner, complete activities designed to increase overall physical fitness and improve physical fitness in an atmosphere of competition and teamwork.

**General Course Goals**

- The student will complete the Presidential fitness testing.
- The student will improve his volleyball skills and demonstrate knowledge of volleyball rules.
- The student will improve his skills and knowledge of football.
- The student will develop long distance running skills.
- The student will improve his skills and knowledge of basketball.
- The student will improve his skills and knowledge of hockey.
- The student will perform plyometric, agility and weight training activities.
- The student will perform basic gymnastic maneuvers.
- The student will watch aerobic videos.
- The student will improve his soccer skills and knowledge of the game of soccer.
- The student will perform various track and field events.
- The student will improve his skills in the game of softball/baseball.

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- Various Equipment necessary for each unit (free weights, sport specific equipment, mats, etc.)
- Presidential fitness testing

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, five times per week
- Course Length: two semesters

**Assessment**

- Demonstrate skills pertaining to various sports through drills and participation
- Two skills tests per unit
- Presidential Fitness Testing
- Weekly mile run
- Dressing out

Subject: World Studies

Grade: 8

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### **Philosophy Statement**

“History is the record of the past from Creation to the present, revealing the actions of God and man.” History is “His Story” (Isaiah 46:9-10) and is a vital part of one’s education. As students study history they see God’s principles put into action. It is important that students know the past, present, and future of history. Students will see the hand of God as he has moved and is moving to work in lives and cultures to bring to pass his ultimate plan for the ages.

### **Course Description**

World Studies is an overview of world events and cultures from the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D. Map Studies is also an important part of the course. Throughout the course, students will develop note-taking and study skills.

### **General Course Goals**

- The student will review how a town is formed including where to settle, how money systems began, and how guilds became the center of social life.
- The student will identify changes in philosophy—humanism, education, and art—from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance.
- The student will summarize and give examples of how the Reformation disrupted the Catholic Church.
- The student will characterize why the Mongol Empire was so successful under Genghis Khan, and why other Mongol leaders did not do as well.
- The student will compare traditional African families with traditional Western families and identify the structure and functions of different family groups.
- The students will recognize the reasons why European nations began to explore the world and the techniques they used to explore.
- The students will identify the key people and events that led to the settling and developing of Latin America.
- The students will identify which countries explored the New World and the reasons and regions that each explored.
- The students will identify key people and events that took place during the European age of absolute rulers and during the Age of Reason.
- The students will identify and describe early and modern missionaries and their works.
- The students will analyze the different aspects of the Victorian era.
- The students will identify the early years of the slave trade and the effects of exploration in Africa.
- The students will identify the events that led to World War 1 and World War 2 and the impact of the wars on the entire world.
- The students will identify the reasons for the forming of the Soviet Union and evaluate the effects of Communism on the nation.
- The students will identify the issues and struggles associated with the realignment in the Middle East during the latter 1900’s.

### **Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *World Studies for Christian Schools*, second edition Bob Jones University Press
- *Student Activities in World Studies*, second edition Bob Jones University Press
- Teacher Resource File
- Maps from Publisher

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, five times per week
- Course length: two semesters

**Assessment**

- Homework checked as assigned
- Section quizzes and one test per chapter
- One project per semester, presented in both oral and written format
- One exam per semester