

Northshore Christian Academy

Experience Excellence



MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th Grade
Course Descriptions
2026-2027

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MISSION STATEMENT

Northshore Christian Academy partners with families to provide a superior Christian education developing spiritual, academic, and personal excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

VISION STATEMENT

To transform our communities by graduating resilient disciples of Christ who are spiritually equipped and academically prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Academic Core Courses

Biblical Studies

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

Bible

Required: Full Year

In 8th grade Bible, students will go through inductive Bible studies of the New Testament epistles. Inductive Bible study teaches them how to make observations, interpretations, and application to their own lives. Students will also create their own statement of faith based on an apologetics study on creation, fall, redemption, and glory. Students will be challenged to articulate their thoughts in writing and in speaking. Students will leave knowing why they believe what they believe.

Each semester, our middle school students dedicate ten hours of volunteer service to the community for a total of 20 hours for the school year. These service hours are credited toward their Bible class grade. The type of service varies for individual students and is mostly accomplished outside of school time. Some service ideas include the following: volunteering at a nursing home, the mission, or serving at a church soup kitchen, church nursery or children’s church; assisting the elderly with yard work or household chores; volunteering at a veterinary clinic to clean pet cages; sorting clothing at World Vision and picking up trash at a public park.

English Language Arts

“...God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning...” Daniel 1:17

English

Required: Full Year

In Amplify ELA, 8th-grade students will embark on a year-long journey through diverse and engaging content. They will begin with Perspectives & Narrative, where they will learn to read like writers. By closely examining rich, layered narratives, students will analyze the techniques authors use to make their writing resonate and practice applying these techniques in their narrative writing.

Next, students will explore Liberty & Equality by reading hand-selected excerpts from *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. This poignant account of Douglass’s experiences as an enslaved and eventually “free” African American is a literary classic studied nationwide. After reading these excerpts, students will compare Frederick Douglass’s resolve to that of the Psalmists in the Bible and will have the opportunity to write their own Psalm.

Following this, students will delve into Science & Science Fiction through Gris Grimly’s graphic novel adaptation of “Frankenstein.” This will challenge them to grapple with central

themes such as the source of humanity and the root of evil. They will write an essay debating whether Frankenstein's creature should be considered human, presenting arguments for both sides before concluding.

In *Holocaust: Memory & Meaning*, students will utilize primary source articles, images, and videos, as well as literary fiction and nonfiction, to understand the factors that enabled the atrocities of the Holocaust. They will investigate how propaganda was generated and used to corrupt a society.

Finally, students will immerse themselves in Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, exploring its wide range of themes and critically examining the choices made by the characters.

The Amplify ELA curriculum meticulously aligns with Washington state standards and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), ensuring students' holistic skill development. Through various writing tasks, grammar instruction, critical analysis of complex texts, and engaging speaking and listening activities, students meet CCSS standards in writing, grammar, critical thinking, speaking and listening, vocabulary, and informational text and research methods. By integrating these components seamlessly into instruction, Amplify ELA prepares students for academic success and proficiency in English language arts.

Eighth Grade Honors English

Honors Course: Full Year

The Honors Eighth Grade English course is designed to provide an enriched and challenging curriculum that aligns with the Washington State Standards for English Language Arts. Through a comprehensive exploration of literature, language, and composition, students will develop advanced critical thinking skills, enhance their writing proficiency, and deepen their understanding of the English language through a biblical lens.

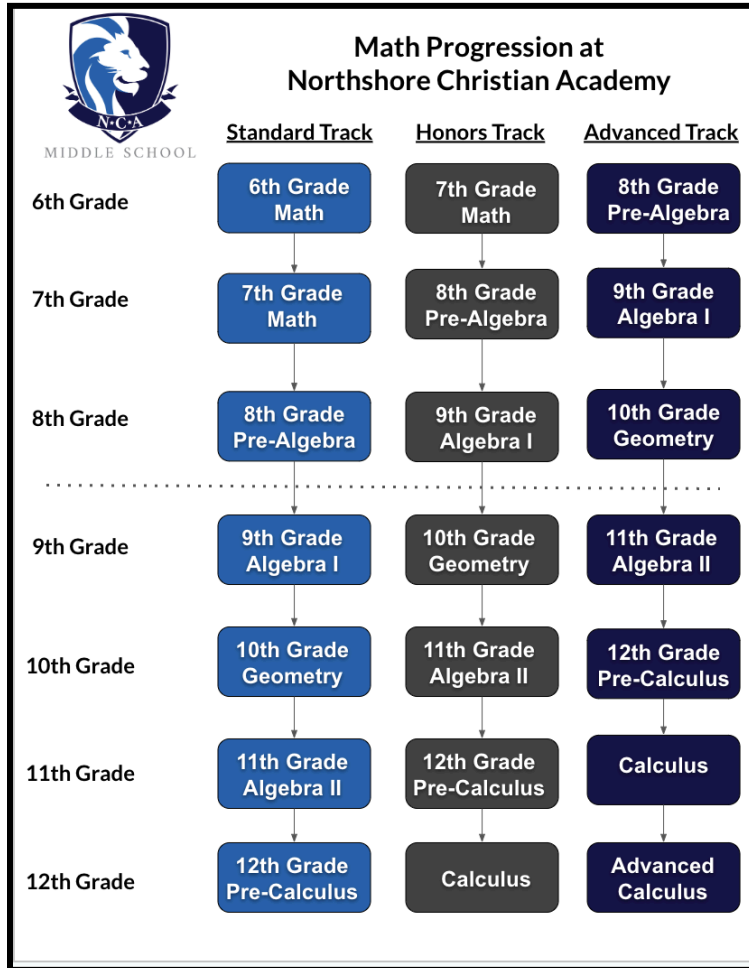
Note: Instructor Approval required.

Mathematics

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

Romans 1:20

Students are placed in math courses based upon teacher recommendations, placement exams, MAP scores, current achievement and motivation, and mastery of prerequisite concepts. Students in any advanced math course must maintain an 80% (B-) each semester.



Eighth Grade Pre-Algebra

Required: Full Year

In this course, students will learn to use fundamental mathematical functions with integers, fractions, and decimals. They will practice using order of operations to evaluate variable expressions, will solve variable equations using transformations, translate word sentences into mathematical equations, and solve word problems. Work is required to be shown helping students to understand the value of knowing the steps to solve individual problems. Mastery of these skills are a prerequisite for Algebra I.

Ninth Grade Algebra I

Honors Course: Full Year

Algebra I is a high school-equivalent, first-year algebra course, and an essential introduction to higher math courses. This course follows a sequential approach to algebraic concepts and skills such as solving equations, working with linear and quadratic functions, solving systems, inequalities, polynomials, rational and irrational expressions, and absolute value expressions. As a result of this course the student will become adept at working with these forms of mathematical expressions by reading and writing algebraic equations, formulas, and solutions. Students review and hone concepts taught in previous mathematics courses while working toward mastery of algebraic equations. Students may take Algebra I for high school credit, but it is recommended that they have excellent mastery and keep high grades (B or better) before using this course for high school credit.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

Tenth Grade Geometry

Advanced Course: Full Year

This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. It includes the study of transformations and right triangle trigonometry. Inductive and deductive thinking skills are used in problem solving situations, and applications to the real world are stressed. It also emphasizes writing proofs to solve properties of geometric figures. Placement is based upon successful completion of Algebra I. Students may take Geometry for high school credit, but it is recommended that they have excellent mastery and keep high grades (B or better) before using this course for high school credit.

Note: Instructor Approval Required.

Eleventh Grade Algebra II

Advanced Course: Full Year

Algebra II continues and deepens concepts from first year Algebra. These include graphing quadratics, factoring complex polynomials, solving polynomials and working with sequences and series. Students will develop skills and tools for analyzing the domain and range of various kinds of functions and use correct function notation. The course also introduces abstract rules, theorems, and tests like Descartes rule of signs, the rational roots test and the vertical line test introduced in Algebra I. Algebra II is "intermediate algebra", designed to prepare the student for more advanced math course work like advanced algebra, math analysis, advanced trigonometry and calculus. Students may take Algebra II for high school credit, but it is recommended that they have excellent mastery and keep high grades (B or better) before using this course for high school credit.

Note: Instructor Approval Required. This course is an independent study. It is fully online with support from a classroom teacher.

History

"We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done." Psalm 78:4

United States History

Required: Full Year

Students will immerse themselves in a full year study of United States history from colonization to Industrialism of the 21st Century. Students will understand the role of government and the importance of understanding US Historical events that shape what our nation has been, is and what will be to come. The curriculum is instructed through History Alive!. While not a biblical curriculum, we use a Biblical lens for students to discover their own abilities and responsibilities in life through the historical examples of people who either followed God's standards or missed the mark accordingly. Students will view the truth of God's actions through comparing Scripture to historical U.S. artifacts enabling students to develop values and learn from the past. Students will use a mixture of tests, quizzes and hands-on projects to identify and annotate key themes from the text and the Bible and apply them to the U.S. government, culture, foreign policy and morals that shape this nation.

Science

"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well." Psalms 139:14

Life Science

Required: Full Year

Science is our effort to understand the world God has created with the minds He gave us. Life Science, or biology, focuses on living things and how they relate to their environment. As we learn more about the world around us, we become more aware of our important charge to care for God's creation. This year, students will learn much about the great variety and incredible complexity around and inside themselves. Students will use a biblical worldview to learn about living things in the biosphere, the cell system, the human body systems, reproduction and growth in organisms, ecosystems, and the interplay of populations, communities, genes and heredity, and how natural selection can lead to a change over time in organisms.

Growth and Development

Required

During the middle school years, students develop physically, intellectually, and spiritually. Social relationships become more emphasized as students work to figure out their role among their peers and work to find their purpose. Students receive age-appropriate instruction on the changes they will encounter as they grow including Cognitive, Social, Physical, and Emotional changes. This includes instruction on reproductive systems and structures. This curriculum is designed and implemented by our growth and development team. We are distinctly different through our Biblical Integration and our Parent Partnership.

Elective Courses

Faith Electives

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

Worship Leadership Praise Team

Elective: Full Year

Students in this class will develop their God-given musical abilities as they take an active role in leading worship during chapel. Vocalists focus on ensemble singing, microphone technique, and the art of worship leadership. Instrumentalists come into class with the ability to play guitar (electric or acoustic,) drums, electric bass, or piano. Some music theory and music appreciation is included. Our primary focus is developing a heart for worship that honors the Lord, above performing before people.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

Student Leadership Class (SLC)

Elective: First through Third Quarters

Leadership is an important skill that is worthy of consideration and encouragement, even at a young age. This class focuses on practicing leadership in school activities such as missional promotions, team building activities, leading chapel activities, making announcements, and planning spirit weeks. Student leaders help to promote a healthy middle school culture.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

Fine Arts Electives

“... He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship.” Exodus 35:31-33

Advanced Band

Elective: Full Year

In Advanced Band (our 7th & 8th grade band), students will study musical concepts and values including ensemble playing, steady beat, playing in tune, accurate articulation and note reading, and expressive musical phrasing. They will also know how to practice individually through solo and small ensemble performance opportunities. Students will explore and become aware of historical and stylistic musical concepts as we play a variety of music. The band will perform in the Fall and Spring Concerts, as well as other opportunities throughout the year.

Note: Intermediate Band is a prerequisite to Advanced Band, unless given permission by the instructor (permission is granted if the student has taken/will take private lessons or is transferring from a different band program).

Advanced Orchestra

Elective: Full Year

Intended for 7th and 8th graders, this orchestra focuses on extending your abilities as a musician and instrumentalist. Class focuses on advanced left hand and bowing techniques, improving posture, and vastly refining your musicianship and musicality. You will learn more rhythmically and stylistically complex music literacy and listening skills, professional rehearsal etiquette and procedure, musical vocabulary, music theory, performance practice, and music history. There are several formal and informal performances and concerts throughout the year, with additional opportunities to audition for Chamber Orchestra.

Note: Intermediate Orchestra (or 2 years' experience) is a prerequisite to Advanced Orchestra, unless given permission by the instructor.

Advanced Choir

Elective: Full Year

Advanced Choir continues to train students interested in exploring all aspects of choral music. Students will develop their vocal skills using a variety of styles and genres of choral music. They will read and recognize rhythms and notes and follow choral music scores. Various exercises will help to develop their range, tone quality, dynamics, and diction. The Advanced Choir will perform in several concerts throughout the year.

Note: Previous choral experience or instructor approval required.

Drama

Elective: Quarter

Students will explore creative ways for self-expression and the use of drama to minister to others. Students will learn philosophy, history, stage basics, and various acting techniques that enable them to perform well in front of an audience. Drama students, as well as students not in drama class, may audition for the annual middle school musical.

Guitar

Elective: Quarter

In this course, students will have the opportunity to develop fundamental skills to playing guitar, fret fluency, strumming, fingerpicking, playing melodies, understanding music theory to both translate, interpret and communicate with and through their instrument, and allowing them to be able to both play as an individual as well as an ensemble. Students with a variety of experience, beginning for the first time as well as experienced and advanced students are welcome, to both learn, grow, and be challenged.

S.T.E.A.M. Electives

“For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.” Colossians 1:16

Innovation Lab

Elective: Quarter

The Innovation Lab is a hands-on class where students explore, create, and innovate. Through engaging, project-based experiences, students dive into engineering, technology, robotics, 3D design, and more—bringing their ideas to life in meaningful ways.

Students take on challenges as they build robots, design and print 3D models, and solve real-world problems. They work with a wide range of tools, machines, and materials—combining digital design, physical building, and innovative creating to bring ideas from concept to completion.

The class encourages curiosity, teamwork, and leadership, while also fostering independence and ownership of learning. Following the design process—asking questions, brainstorming, prototyping, and improving—students grow as creative thinkers and problem-solvers.

Whether working independently or with peers, students develop the confidence and skills to think critically, take risks, and turn ideas into reality—preparing them for future STEAM opportunities and beyond.

Fundamentals of Aerospace

Elective: Quarter

Have you ever wondered how airplanes fly? Are you curious about the history of aviation? Do you want to know how jet engines operate? Would you like to know what careers are available in aviation? Join us in an exploration of aviation. This class covers the history of aviation, basic nomenclature of aircraft parts, aerodynamic principles, basic systems operations, and careers in aviation. We will use hands-on activities to enhance the learning experience. The class culminates with a visit to the airport and getting close to a real airplane. Your teacher for this class is an FAA Certified Mechanic, Private Pilot, and Remote (drone) pilot.

Horticulture: The Art and Science of Plants

Elective: Quarter

Students will explore God’s created world through the plants and nature around us. They will gain hands-on experience learning about the makeup of a seed, plant growth requirements such as soil nutrients, plant reproduction, and an introduction to photosynthesis. We will focus on hands-on learning and use the outdoors as much as possible throughout our time together.

Art

Elective: Quarter

Our fine arts program inspires students to see and appreciate God’s design and beauty in all creation. In this course, we will learn how to use all the tools an artist needs, from

practical lessons in the Elements of Art (line, shape, color, value, texture, form, and space), to S.T.E.A.M. based investigations of God's Creation for inspiration. Students will gain the vocabulary to express artistically how they interact with the world through studies of different artists, styles and techniques. Artists will experiment with Sharpie markers, pencils, watercolors, oil and soft pastels, watercolors, acrylics, printmaking, and collage. They will continue to learn how to create and change color, to use space and perspective to create interest, and to create art with dimension. This course will serve as an introduction to art for both the new and experienced artist. Artists will sample abstract art, impressionism, and realism, and best of all, they will begin to discover more of the treasures inside of them, according to the Bible, and be challenged to polish their work through self/peer-evaluation and goal setting.

Fashion Design

Elective: Quarter

This elective introduces students to the fundamentals of fashion design through sketching, sewing, textiles, color theory, and creative design projects. Students will explore the principles of style and garment construction while developing creativity, problem-solving, and practical skills. Through a Christian worldview, students will also examine how fashion can reflect modesty, individuality, stewardship, and God-given creativity, encouraging them to use their talents with purpose and integrity.

***Note: There is a materials fee associated with this course.**

Yearbook Design

Elective runs First through Third Quarter

Students will learn about creative yearbook design and the principles of photography by producing the school yearbook. They will discover techniques of page layout: such as use of white space, size of text, color schemes, taking pictures to tell a story, photoshop, and create future school marketing and digital designs.

Note: Instructor Approval required.

World Languages

"When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken." Acts 2:6

Spanish 1A

Elective: Semester

Spanish is an engaging, communicative course designed to help students build their language proficiency through comprehensible input. Students will listen to Spanish, read and act out stories in Spanish, share ideas, sing songs, learn Bible verses, and play games in Spanish! Every unit has a unique cultural focus that provides a window into products, practices, and perspectives in diverse Spanish-speaking communities around the world. Topics covered include basic descriptions and introductions, holidays, action words, and school vocabulary. Based on the Somos Curriculum, this course is aligned to national standards, is communication focused, and includes authentic resources to prepare

students for Spanish in high school and beyond. Students who successfully complete each level of Spanish at NCA (1A, 1B, and 1C) will be equipped to begin Spanish 2 in high school.

Spanish 1B

Elective: Semester

Spanish 1B builds on the language proficiency students developed in Spanish 1A. Students continue to act out stories in Spanish, share ideas, sing songs, learn Bible verses, and play games. Every unit has a unique cultural focus that provides a window into products, practices, and perspectives in diverse Spanish-speaking communities around the world. **Topics covered include basic commands, daily activities, food, and legends.** Based on the Somos Curriculum, this course is aligned to national standards, is communication focused, and includes authentic resources to prepare students for Spanish in high school and beyond. Students who successfully complete each level of Spanish at NCA (1A, 1B, and 1C) will be equipped to begin Spanish 2 in high school.

Note: Successful completion of Spanish 1A or equivalent is a prerequisite to Spanish 1B.

Spanish 1C

Elective: Semester

Spanish 1C continues to build on the skills and topics introduced in 1A and 1B. Students will engage with more advanced topics and texts to further develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing proficiency in Spanish. Every unit has a unique cultural focus that provides a window into products, practices, and perspectives in diverse Spanish-speaking communities around the world. Topics covered include Bible study, idiomatic expressions, sports, historical events, and nature. Based on the Somos Curriculum, this course is aligned to national standards, is communication focused, and includes authentic resources to prepare students for Spanish in high school and beyond. Students who successfully complete each level of Spanish at NCA (1A, 1B, and 1C) will be equipped to begin Spanish 2 in high school.

Note: Successful completion of Spanish 1B or equivalent is a prerequisite to Spanish 1C.

American Sign Language

Elective: Quarter

In this course students will learn how to sign basic conversations and learn about deaf culture. Students will learn how to sign the alphabet, different greetings, and many build block signs. Just as important is understanding the culture of deaf people and what it means to be deaf. Students will learn to respect and understand the deaf.

General Electives

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” II Timothy 2:15

Creative Writing

Elective: Quarter

Throughout this enriching course, budding writers will embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery and creative exploration. They will immerse themselves in the rich realms of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction writing, diligently honing their craft and nurturing their distinctive voices. Drawing from both timeless traditions and contemporary innovations, they will skillfully craft evocative poetry, compelling narratives, and poignant nonfiction pieces.

Guided by the principles of collaboration and constructive critique, writers will actively participate in writer circles, feedback sessions, and engaging workshops, fostering an environment where creativity thrives and artistic growth flourishes. Through a series of dynamic hands-on activities, students will cultivate their unique writing identities, drawing inspiration from esteemed guest speakers and eagerly seizing opportunities to showcase their talents in local writing contests. Under the expert mentorship of an industry professional and supportive peers, writers will meticulously refine their skills, joyously celebrate their achievements, and confidently unleash their boundless creativity within the vibrant tapestry of the Creative Writing elective.

Physical Education

Requirement: Quarter

The Middle School Physical Education course is designed to promote physical fitness, develop motor skills, and instill the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Students will engage in a variety of activities aimed at building teamwork, improving individual fitness, and understanding the value of physical activity in everyday life. The course focuses on both team sports and individual fitness, encouraging students to develop a lifelong commitment to health and wellness.

Students will participate in a range of team sports which may include basketball, soccer, volleyball, flag football, and lacrosse. We also focus on lifetime sports and fitness which may include walking/jogging, badminton, pickleball, strength training (using bodyweight exercises), aerobic exercises, flexibility, plus core and balance exercises.

Students are graded on SPACE (Sportsmanship, Participation, Attitude, Cooperation, & Effort), Ready/Not Ready for class, and some assessments including fitness testing and quizzes.

Film Studies: A Biblical View about Movie Creation

Elective: Quarter

In film studies, students will analyze films and film history with a biblical worldview. Students will connect films to biblical principles and make notes and observations about

the film industry. By the end of the course, students will be able to write and produce their own short film.

Beginning Public Speaking

Elective: Quarter

This course introduces students to the art of public speaking, helping them grow into confident and effective communicators. Students will explore the four main purposes of speaking—to inform, persuade, entertain, and inspire—while learning how to craft and deliver clear, engaging speeches. Emphasis will be placed on foundational delivery techniques, including eye contact, pacing and pausing, gestures and body language, and speaking with conviction. Through a variety of projects, presentations, and mini-lessons, students will build confidence, develop awareness of their audience, and establish strong communication habits that will serve as the foundation for more advanced speaking skills.

Advanced Public Speaking

Elective: Quarter

In Advanced Public Speaking, students will continue developing the same core delivery techniques—eye contact, pause and pace, hand and body gestures, and speaking with conviction—while going deeper in how they apply them. The focus will shift toward more intentional communication, such as using purposeful pauses for emphasis and strengthening vocal variety to better engage an audience. Students will apply these refined skills through a variety of speeches, including an impromptu speech to build confidence and quick thinking, a structured debate preparation to develop argument and rebuttal skills, a TED-style talk that blends informative and inspiring elements, and a rewritten Bible story delivered with a specific audience in mind.

****Beginning Public Speaking is a prerequisite for this course.***

Entrepreneurship

Elective: Quarter

Entrepreneurship class is a course that will help students launch and run a real business. Topics include business models and ideation, product sourcing, branding, marketing, financial management, basic accounting, sales funnels, conversion rate optimization, stewardship, tax and legal considerations.

Personal Finance

Elective: Quarter

Personal Finance is a course designed to teach students about money. Students will be given the tools and practical strategies they need to be money smart. This course will cover four basic concepts: working, spending, saving, and giving. Along with topics such as: where money comes from, the value of hard work, how to save, spend, and give, debt and how to avoid it, living responsibly, and students learn to become godly stewards of their finances.

Holistic Health

Elective: Quarter

Holistic Health is a course that is designed to walk students through how to care for themselves, body and soul. Paul describes how both physical and spiritual discipline are

good for us. Students will learn how to incorporate spiritual disciplines and establish healthy habits into their lives.

Academic Support

PAW Period

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.” Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10

PAW Period

PAW Period is a short class period several times a week, where students have flexibility in their schedules to get extra support from their teachers. Students can visit one of their teachers during this time for extra help to complete assignments or assessments, catch up on missing work, or use the time for studying.

Character Strong

Character Strong is taught twice a week during PAW Period. This curriculum helps students navigate friendships, manage emotions, make responsible decisions, and develop a sense of belonging at school.

Academic Support Courses

*“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Study Skills

Elective: Quarter

This course is designed to support students with their study skills. Students will learn goal setting, organization and time management skills, reading and note-taking skills, how to manage long-term projects, and tips for test taking. Students will also learn to navigate Blackbaud, email teachers, and advocate for their own learning. All of these skills will benefit students throughout their middle and high school careers.

Academic Advisory

Support Class: Quarter

This class is offered to supplement and support a student’s regular core classes. The teacher will consult with the core teachers, and assist students in organization, assignment completion, and study skills. The instructor will also analyze basic skill weaknesses on the part of students and give them opportunities to strengthen deficiencies. This is not a study hall, but a supervised, directed course aimed at supporting student success in their core classes.

Note: Students are recommended by teachers for this class for extra support.

Math Lab

Support Class: Quarter

This class is offered to supplement and support a student's regular math class. The teacher will consult with the student's math teacher, review concepts recently presented in the regular class and assist students in demonstrating those concepts. The instructor will also analyze basic skill weaknesses on the part of students and give them opportunities to strengthen deficiencies. This is not a study hall, but a supervised, directed course aimed at mastery of grade-level mathematics and math skill acquisition.

Note: Students are recommended by teachers for this class for extra support.

Thrive Program

"And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all." 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Tutoring

Thrive Tutoring offers one-on-one intentional and personalized support for students in all academic areas, as well as executive functioning support. Tutoring provides additional time and support for concepts taught in the classroom and homework. Tutors can also provide remedial instruction for gap areas in learning. Thrive tutoring is typically done before or after school. Middle school students may also be scheduled during elective periods. There is an additional cost.

Extracurricular Activities

After School Activities

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24

Roarin' Robotics

Northshore Christian Academy's robotics program is dynamic and award-winning, led by our Roarin' Robotics teams. Students consistently excel in FIRST LEGO League (FLL) competitions, and beginning in 2026, will expand into FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC).

Guided by dedicated coaches and mentors, students develop strong Core Values while engaging in engineering innovation projects and hands-on robot design, building, and programming for competition. They collaborate with industry professionals to explore and solve real-world challenges, deepening both their technical skills and critical thinking.

Beyond competition, our teams are committed to serving and inspiring others, making a meaningful impact in the community, and demonstrating the lasting value of our robotics program.

Middle School students are selected through a rigorous interview process each May/June for the upcoming school year. Teams meet on Friday afternoons and Saturdays, beginning the first week of school, with additional practices scheduled on select non-school days as needed. Practice frequency increases as competitions approach, and the season may extend based on team advancement.

The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) season includes Qualifiers in December and Semi-Finals in January. FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams compete in League Meets in November, Tournaments in December, and Super Qualifiers in January. Both programs have the opportunity to advance to State Competitions in February, with potential progression to World Championships in April (Houston, TX), or participation in Invitationals and Premier Events worldwide in May, June, or July.

Throughout our program's history, multiple FLL teams have advanced to State Competitions and have been invited to prestigious events in California, Florida, and Canada. Advancement is performance-based and occurs by invitation, reflecting each team's success throughout the competitive season.

*** Note: There is a fee associated with Roarin' Robotics participation.**

Athletics

Our Mission: We are a preparatory school. Our goal is to guide, grow, and prepare our athletes for high school sports. This includes their Christian foundation, attitude, behavior, and work ethic, alongside their skills. Our goal is to create a safe, fun, motivating, and competitive environment where athletes feel challenged and inspired to improve their skills and develop into well rounded young men and women of God.

Our Vision: Our vision is to cultivate a Christ-centered athletic community that produces well-rounded young men and women of God—confident, disciplined, and equipped to lead with integrity. We aim to create programs that challenge athletes to grow in their faith, develop their gifts, and pursue excellence with humility, teamwork, and purpose.

NCA's athletic teams participate in the Cascade League of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA). Our teams compete in girls' volleyball, cross country, boys' and girls' soccer, boys' and girls' basketball and track & field. We also offer a variety of camps and clinics for not only our middle schoolers, but also 3rd-5th graders. We are competitive, but more importantly committed, to building godly character and good sportsmanship in the lives of our team players. Each year, we have novice and seasoned players, and our coaches are committed to reaching each athlete at their current level, helping them to personally improve while also contributing to the team. When a large number of students sign up for a sport, a second team may be warranted and will be determined by the coaches and athletic director, in conjunction with our sporting league. Team players in each sport make new friends, have fun, learn new skills, and glorify God with their attitude, sportsmanship, and talents.

*** Note: There is a fee associated with athletic participation.**

Musical

Every fall, the Middle School Musical is revealed and all 6th - 8th grade students have the opportunity to audition. As part of the musical cast, students will develop their skills of acting, singing, dancing, improvisation, memorization, vocal technique, character development, perseverance, working as a team, taking risks, and utilizing the gifts that God has given each participant. In addition to participating as a performer, students have the option to apply to be on Stage Crew. In this capacity, students will have the opportunity to learn about the technical aspects that go into a production. This includes managing props, set pieces, lighting, microphones, scene changes, stage managing, operating spotlight, and managing backstage. After two and a half months of rehearsal, the cast and crew will put on multiple performances for the community to enjoy in March. Examples of some of our past musicals have included the "junior" version of *The Music Man*, *The Lion King*, *Frozen*, *Oklahoma*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and others.

Zero Hour Musical Groups

*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!" Psalm 100:1-2*

Jazz Band I & II

These highly competitive groups have a lot of fun playing a variety of jazz and contemporary music styles. The Jazz Bands perform in our Fall and Spring concerts as well as other events throughout the school year. Jazz Band is open to all middle school students by audition and with director approval. Jazz Band I (our most advanced group) meets Mondays and Wednesdays before school, and Jazz Band II (our entry-level group) meets Tuesdays and Thursdays before school.

*** Note: There is a fee associated with membership in these groups.**

Chamber Orchestra I & II

These are two auditioned groups of 6th - 8th grade students who are ready for more complicated, demanding music and the challenge of performing in a more intimate setting. These small ensembles meet before school and learn to perform without a conductor, guiding and following each other. The focus is on precise intonation, coordinated ensemble playing, complimentary phrasing, and playing different styles of music. Chamber Orchestra performs in our Fall and Spring concerts as well as other off-campus events throughout the school year. Participation in Intermediate/Advanced Orchestra is highly recommended but not required. Students must have at least 1 year of classroom or private lesson experience on their instrument to audition.

*** Note: There is a fee associated with membership in these groups.**

Una Voce

Una Voce or “One Voice” is a select group of 6th - 8th grade females. This group meets before school twice a week and participants are chosen through an audition process. These ladies sing diverse, challenging music, and perform at a variety of events throughout the school year.

*** Note: There is a fee associated with membership in this group.**

Jazz Choir

Open to 6th–8th grade students by audition. This ensemble explores the vibrant world of jazz through swing, blues, and contemporary vocal styles. Students will develop skills in tone, rhythm, improvisation, and ensemble singing while learning classic and modern jazz repertoire. Emphasis is placed on musical expression, listening, and collaboration in a fun, supportive environment. No prior jazz experience required, just a willingness to try something new and sing with confidence.

*** Note: There is a fee associated with membership in this group.**

Field Trips

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

Fall Retreat

Each fall our middle school attends a special all-day retreat. This time away provides a unique opportunity for our students to build friendships, make new ones, and get to know their teachers outside of the classroom setting. Our middle school students are challenged and inspired to seek the Lord, to know His will personally, as well as for our middle school. We have special guest speakers and times of praise and worship. We are passionate about sharing Jesus with our students and seeing them walk in kindness and brotherly love for one another. We are also serious about having fun! We have a blast with the numerous games and outdoor activities, such as zip-lines, high ropes course, and special indoor activities.

East Coast American History Trip

Every other year our 7th and 8th grade middle school students have the opportunity to go on a East Coast/American History focused trip to Washington DC, New York City, and Williamsburg, VA. Our 2026 trip also included Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see a Biblical Musical at Sight and Sound Theater!

In the spring, we take a week-long history tour of our nation’s capital, learning all about the rich Christian heritage on which our country is founded. This trip is chock-full and fast-paced. In Washington DC we visit all the memorials, such as the Korean War, Vietnam War, & WWII War Memorials; Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, & the Washington Monument. We will tour the Smithsonian Museums and see the Ford’s Theatre where President Lincoln was assassinated, as well as the Peterson House where he was treated prior to passing. We usually visit Arlington National Cemetery & the Tombs of the

Unknowns where we have had the honor of laying a wreath on behalf of NCA. We throw in a trip to Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, the world's largest living history museum/village. In New York City we will attend a Broadway show as well as visiting the 9/11 Memorial. This is an amazing experience that creates life-long memories for our middle school students, and a deeper appreciation for the Christian heritage and sacrifices of our nation's forefathers. Staff chaperones are provided by the school and each is assigned small student groups.

****There is a fee associated with this trip.***