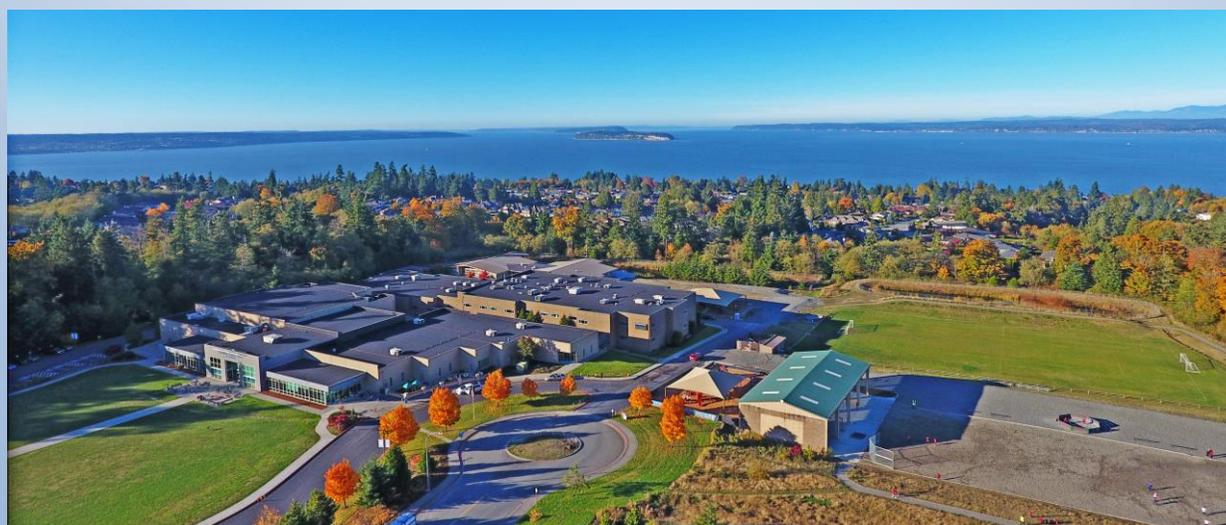


Northshore Christian Academy



Experience Excellence



8th Grade Course Descriptions Catalog & Co-Curricular Activities

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VISION STATEMENT

Transformed lives...Transform lives

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

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.



Biblical Studies

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”
Matthew 28:19-20

The primary goal of our Bible courses is to make the Word of God more meaningful to the lives of our middle school students. We desire our young people to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. We endeavor to develop that relationship by equipping students with knowledge and application of the Word of God. Going beyond factual knowledge of the Scriptures, we hope to see wisdom and understanding imparted into every student’s life with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Character development, prayer, Bible memory work, and practical lessons, enable students to grow in faith and equip them to make good decisions.

Bible (Grade 8)

Required: Full year

Lightbearers is designed to help students develop a personal understanding of what Jesus meant when He said, “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations...” (John 28:19). Students will build upon their foundation of Biblical knowledge and apply it into real-life application through a study of spiritual disciplines and practical application in, and out of the classroom.



Language Arts

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

The middle school language arts program is designed to inspire life-long readers and for students to become confident communicators. Through our Language Arts department, students will expand their appreciation of literature in multiple genres and learn to think critically while developing strong analytical skills from a Biblical worldview. Students work with a variety of written forms, developing their own voice and style. We endeavor to equip students with clear writing skills and the ability to express themselves in an articulate manner.

Language Arts (Grade 8)

Required: Full year

The eighth grade language arts course focuses on vocabulary, grammar, literature, and composition. Building on Common Core writing standards melded together with a variety of techniques, students create multiple forms of original writing in conjunction with the literature being read and analyzed. Vocabulary development and grammar skills are taught weekly through Greek/Latin roots and through the writing process. Writing assignments include essays, dialectical journals, literature responses, creative stories, narratives, and poetry. A variety of literary genres, fiction and non-fiction, are explored in eighth grade including essays, poetry, short stories, dramas, novels, and more. Thoughtful interpretive discussions about literature, along with critical analysis, are emphasized. As far as major works, students read, discuss, and analyze *Fahrenheit 451* and “A Midsummer’s Night Dream.” Students are also given strategies that build public

speaking confidence. By participating in the speech meet, class debates, Socratic seminars, and oral presentations students learn to express themselves orally with poise and clarity.



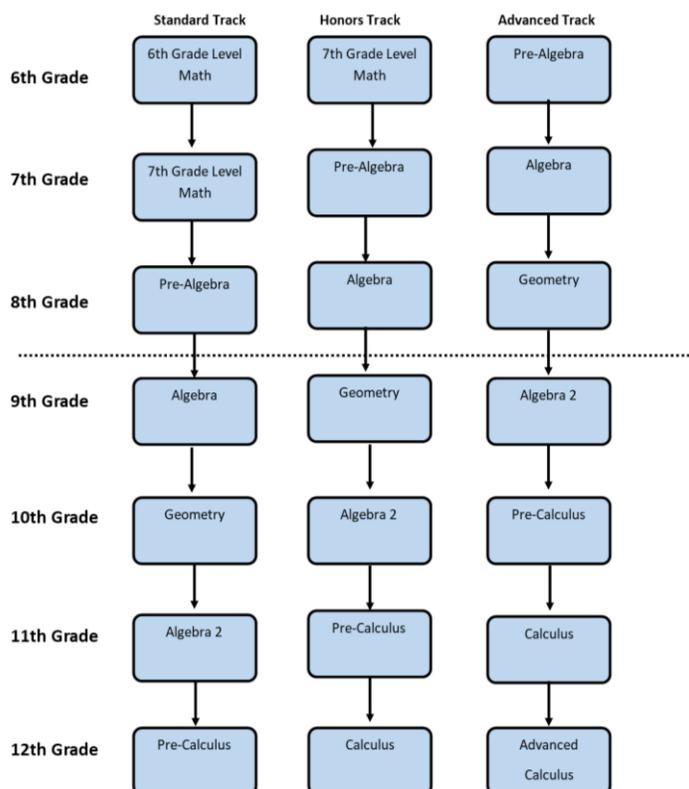
Mathematics

“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 NIV)

Our philosophy of education for middle school math is built upon the premise that God created a physical world of orderly relationships and patterns as He set the world in motion. While students are learning mathematics, they will understand the concept of absolute truth, and their minds will be strengthened through thinking and reasoning skills. Students will learn to go from the concrete to the abstract, from the particular to the general, from content to concept. They will also learn to process facts as part of the truth and order that God has built into reality. Each grade level builds upon previous learning in which mathematical concepts are distributed throughout the year for better retention and math mastery. Students will absorb new concepts and skills in small increments with plenty of practice. They will become proficient in problem-solving techniques preparing them for the next level of mathematics.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Math Progression at Northshore Christian Academy



Students are placed in courses based upon teacher recommendations, placement exams, MAP scores, current achievement and motivation, and mastery of prerequisite concepts.

Pre-Algebra (Grades 6-8)

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. Mastery of these skills are a prerequisite for Algebra 1.

Algebra I (Grades 7-8)

Required: Full year

Algebra 1 is a high school-equivalent, first-year algebra course, 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, absolute value expressions, and probabilities. 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. Eighth grade 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 to replace 9th grade Algebra.

Students placed in Advanced Math must meet the following criteria:

- Pass an entrance exam
- Maintain 80 % average or above
- Pass mastery tests
- Students will be placed in Pre-Algebra if they do not meet and maintain the standards for Algebra I

Students in this Algebra course must demonstrate high achievement and motivation, mastery of basic concepts, and strong aptitude for problem solving. There is an expectation of challenging independent work. Students are placed in this course based on teacher recommendation, MAP scores, an entrance exam and current achievement.

Geometry

8th Grade Enrichment: 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 (prove) properties of geometric figures. Placement is based upon successful completion of Algebra 1.

Algebra 2

8th Grade Enrichment: Full year

Algebra 2 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 1. Algebra 2 is "intermediate algebra", designed to prepare the student for more advanced math course work like advanced algebra, math analysis, advanced trigonometry and calculus. It is offered online.



Science

"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)

Students will explore God's creation of the universe, life, technology, and the interaction of natural systems. Using the scientific method, with hands-on experiments, students will deepen their understanding and application of science.

Life Science (Grade 8)

Required: Full year

In this content course, students learn about life science facts, systems and vocabulary. Participants will observe, draw, dissect, apply critical thinking skills and use the scientific method. Life Science topics include taxonomy (classification), cellular biology, molecular biology, the tissues and structures of plants and animals, cellular respiration

and photosynthesis, ecology, and the systems of the human body. The objectives of this course are mastery of basic life science facts along with the development of interest in and enjoyment of the amazing living things our Creator has designed.



Social Studies

*“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 NIV)*

United States History (Grade 8)

Course: Full Year

Students will immerse themselves in a full year study of United States history using The American Republic by BJU Press. This course covers history starting with the discovery of the New World up to the present day United States. Students will understand the role of government and the importance of understanding US History.



Foreign Language

“Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning.” (I Corinthians 14:10 NIV)

With an increasingly globalized society and a culturally diverse nation, knowing a foreign language is becoming essential. Our middle school foreign language program encourages students to see the larger world around them with Biblical worldview and a heart for missions. The Bible says, *“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations...”* Matthew 28:19. In addition to this, students who study foreign language in middle school will have a good foundation for future foreign language study in high school.

All foreign language courses at Northshore are taught with a method called TPR Storytelling which uses four consecutive steps of language acquisition: hearing, speaking, reading and writing. Students hear and respond to new vocabulary, participate in building stories with that vocabulary, and respond to questions with answers and discussion. Songs, games, and skits are all part of the system that has fluency as its aim.

Intermediate/Advanced Spanish (Grade 7 - 8)

Elective: Full year

This is a continuing course that prepares students to succeed in high school Spanish courses. Students learn grammar, including present tense regular and irregular verb conjugations, conjugated verb plus infinitive, how to use *gustar*, *ser/estar*, expressions, as well as additional vocabulary. The curriculum used is *Cuéntame Más*, TPR Storytelling and 2 novels: Pobre Ana and Patricia va a California. Students who successfully complete both years of study often petition high schools for a waiver of Spanish I.

German I, II, and III (Grades 7-8)

Elective: Full year

This course is designed to introduce beginner students to the customs and language of the country. Advanced students will gain a deeper understanding through hands on experiences, special projects and language activities beyond basic vocabulary acquisition.

Beginning German will cover the following vocabulary units: numbers, colors, animals, food, family, telling time, money and the calendar. Advanced students will learn about clothing, transportation, weather, emotions, animals, directions, music and literature. Both groups will be immersed in cultural activities, food experiences, holidays and history. It is designed to give the students an opportunity to have an overview of the language, along with learning the basics of conversational German. There also will be an emphasis on learning about the German culture and the effect it has had on our own culture.

Note: NCA does not give high school credits for any foreign language course. Contact your child's high school for their policies of testing for foreign language placement. Please refer to The Washington State Board of Education for High School graduation requirements.



Physical Education

"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:8 NIV)

Teamwork, good sportsmanship, effort, and athletic skills are emphasized in our middle school physical education courses. Students participate in a variety of athletic activities to facilitate the development of motor skills, coordination, and physical fitness. Character development is an integral part of our program as well. Students are encouraged to display Christ-like attitudes, fairness, honesty, respect, and kindness to others. While students have different athletic abilities, everyone is expected to do their personal best.

Middle School Physical Education (Grades 6-8)

Required: Full year

Each class emphasizes age-appropriate physical development and fitness, competence in useful physical skills, and enjoyment of recreation. A unique activity to middle school PE is *Circuit Training* which focuses on a strength and speed aspect of specific muscle groups and rotates each week. Some sports, such as soccer, flag-football, basketball, pickle ball, and volleyball are taught, making PE fun and challenging. Students also have the opportunity to learn some Tae-Kwon-Do and self-defense strategies. Students work on flexibility, muscular strength, endurance, and cardiovascular health.



Fine Arts

"... 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 NIV)

The Performing Arts

In our performing arts programs students develop their artistic abilities through hands-on instruction. Teachers are passionate about seeing students grow in confidence and artistic skills. We encourage students to use their talents to honor and praise the Lord. Students

learn to distinguish between times of worship and performance. In our programs, students also develop social skills and make lasting friendships as they work cooperatively with one another. There is something for the beginner and the seasoned performer at NCA. Students are encouraged to use music as a form of communication in expressing their thoughts and feelings. They learn that music can be a powerful tool to communicate with God and about God. Students are encouraged to develop their skills in order to do that more effectively, and to bring honor and glory to God by doing it to the best of their abilities.

Advanced Band (Grades 7- 8)

Elective: Full year

Students will learn proper playing techniques including posture, breathing, fingerings, and embouchure. Students will learn good rehearsal procedures including rehearsal conduct, following the conductor, courtesy, and being prepared for rehearsals. They 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. Students will explore and become aware of historical and stylistic musical concepts as we play a variety of music. The band will perform in several concerts throughout the year. Intermediate Band is a pre-requisite to Advanced Band, unless given permission by the instructor.

Advanced Orchestra (Grades 7-8)

Elective: Full year

Advanced Orchestra is where students improve their violin, viola, cello, and bass playing skills. The orchestra focuses on proper posture, left-hand agility, and right-arm bowing techniques. Students work on music reading and listening skills, instrument technique, musicality, rehearsal etiquette and procedure, musical vocabulary, rhythm, music theory and performance. The orchestra will perform in several concerts throughout the year. Intermediate Orchestra is a pre-requisite to Advanced Orchestra, unless given permission by the instructor.

Advanced Choir (Grades 7-8)

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 genre 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, diction and subtleties of style. The Advanced Choir will perform in several concerts throughout the year. Previous choral experience (1 year) or director approval required.

Worship Leadership Praise Team (Grades 7- 8)

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. ***Instructor Approval required.***

Drama (Grades 7- 8)**Elective: Full year**

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.

Graphic Arts

Our graphic arts program inspires students to see and appreciate God's design and beauty in all creation. Each class focuses on the elements and principles of design (color, line, pattern, shape, texture, and value). Different artists, styles and techniques are introduced and discussed. Students create a variety of original works using multiple mediums.

Art (Grades 7 - 8)**Elective: Semester**

Artists will express themselves with Sharpie markers, pencils, watercolors, oil and soft pastels, watercolor pencils, and collage, using new and traditional art techniques. They will continue to learn how to balance color, create a center-of-interest, draw upside-down and in 3-D, make different kinds of watercolor washes, use and mix colors to get special effects, and utilize texture, repetition and value. Building on the principles and techniques practiced in 6th grade art, students will imitate famous artists after studying their styles. Artists will sample abstract art, impressionism, and realism and explore ways to influence their culture. 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.

**Electives****Practical Living (Grades 7-8)****Elective: Semester**

Practical Living will help students prepare for their future beyond 8th grade and the challenges of high school and college life. In the first part of the course. We will learn about nutrition, good eating habits and meal planning. Essential kitchen skills will be taught, and students will learn simple recipes that they can cook in the future. In part two of the class we will explore finances. Being well equipped to handle financial responsibilities is a great asset for young adults. Students will be taught about the pitfalls and dangers of debt and the importance of financial stability through personal savings. We will navigate checking and savings accounts. Learn about financial planning and budgeting through lifelike simulations.

Physics (Grades 7 – 8)**Elective: Semester**

Pre-AP physics introduces students to the study of nature in its simplest form. Topics covered include one and two-dimensional motion, Newton's Laws, forces, vectors, gravity, momentum, work and energy. Also considered are wave motion, sound, light and electricity.

Speech and Debate (Grades 7 – 8)**Elective: Semester**

Through various confidence building strategies and activities, students hone their communication skills through speech and debate. In this course, students will work on debate skills, such as anticipating opposing points of view and presenting arguments in a mature fashion. They will also learn to write engaging speeches and perform in front of everyone. Everyone has been given special gifts from the Lord. Leadership is one of His gifts according to Romans 12:8. For those called to leadership, it is essential to have strong Biblical principles to facilitate leading others. Our leadership class is designed to build and equip student leaders who will make a difference in their generation, their classmates without fear. The class climate is safe and supportive, where students learn to encourage and respect one another.

Student Council (Grades 7 – 8)**Elective: Full year**

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 chapel skits, fund raisers and socials. It also challenges students to consider civic involvement as well as spiritual disciplines that will assist them in their faith. Service projects may also be planned. 6th Grade is a Leadership development class. 7th and 8th Grade Leadership – *Students are elected the spring of the prior school year.*

Yearbook Design (Grades 7 - 8)**Elective: Full year**

Students will learn about creative yearbook design. They will discover techniques of page layout, such as use of white space, size of text, color schemes, ethics with subject matter, and more. Participants will help create the actual school yearbook.

Medical Detectives (Forensics) (Grades 7 – 8)**Elective: Semester**

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene”. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health. *Prerequisite is 80% or higher in Science.*

Chess and Logic (Grades 7 – 8)**Elective: Semester**

A study of logic particularly as it is used in the game of chess and, most particularly, in chess strategy and the end game of chess. The rules are taught to those who are not already acquainted with the game.

Computer Coding (Grades 6-8)**Elective: Semester**

Our students are growing up in a world where computer literacy is as essential as reading, writing, and arithmetic. We will be exploring coding with various tools to help students learn the logic and problem solving skills needed to code. Simple drag and drop coding will be used in the beginning to help students understand the logic. Later on, JavaScript will be the primary programming language we will use in development as we progress.

Web/Game Design (Grades 7 - 8)**Elective: Semester**

Web/Game Design provides students with the skills necessary to plan and create web sites using Expression Design and Web. These skills include creating both static and animated graphics, navigation systems, managing files, HTML basics, data retrieval, and presentation techniques. It will also introduce students to Flash 10 in the creation of animations for the web. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on both information and graphic design, stressing four basic design principles: alignment, proximity, repetition, & contrast. This challenging class is designed for students who have some initial interest in game programming. They will learn to use the program *GameMaker* to design and program games. As a final project, students will design and build a working video game.

Digital Ambassadors (Grades 7 - 8)**Elective: Year**

Northshore Christian Academy Digital Student Ambassador program provides students interested in developing leadership and communication skills the opportunity to serve as a role model and peer advisor who promotes proper technology usage on and off the campus. We are looking for outgoing, friendly students who possess a genuine love for NCA and technology and are willing to help represent the programs and share their campus experiences with current students while working as a member of a team. Ambassadors educate students about the many technology resources available to them and work closely with teachers and peers. Serving as a Digital Student Ambassador is a prestigious honor and a unique opportunity for personal and professional growth. Application Process required.

Student Aide (Grades 7 – 8)**Elective: Semester**

Students will be assigned to assist a teacher, librarian, or office staff member. Student duties will vary. Student aides must demonstrate responsibility and the ability to work independently. There is limited availability for student aides.

**Academic Support Courses (part of the NCA Thrive program)**

“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 KJV)

Academic support courses are elective classes that provide students a quiet supervised place to study, work on homework, and receive additional academic support. Some students may be required to take a study helps course based on their academic needs. Study Hall is especially helpful for students who are involved in sports, performing arts, or other extra-curricular activities. Each student is placed based on the previous year and what they may need extra guided help in to be successful.

Math Lab (Grades 6-8)**Elective: Semester**

This class is offered to supplement and support a student’s regular math course. Participants are encouraged to bring specific problems and concepts for which they need help and clarification. They are allowed to work on their math assignments and correct work from cumulative tests. The teacher for Math Lab will consult with the regular math teachers, 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 material and skill acquisition.

**Students may be recommended by teachers for this class for extra support*

Study Hall (Grades 7-8)

Elective: Semester

Students requiring a little extra help can enroll in a study hall in which the teacher will provide extra assistance and help students with their studies. This is a supervised study time for students to work on homework, read, or prepare for tests or projects. Students are expected to come prepared with all the materials necessary to work or read.

Co-curricular Activities



WEB Crew Leader (Grade 8)

Club: Year

WEB, which stands for “Where Everybody Belongs” is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes 6th graders and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the program trains mentors from your 8th grade class to be WEB Leaders. As positive role models, WEB Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the 6th graders to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school and help facilitate 6th grade success.

***Application and selection process required.**



Service Hours

Each quarter, our middle school students dedicate five hours of volunteer service to the community. 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.



Fall Retreat

Each fall and spring, our middle school classes conduct special all day retreats. This time away provides a unique opportunity for our students to build friendships, make new ones, and 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 will often 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 fun! We have a blast with the numerous games and outdoor activities, such as zip-lines, high ropes course, and special indoor activities.



Sports

NCA's athletic teams participate in two different leagues: 6th graders participate in the Tri-County League and 7/8th graders participate in the Cascade League of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA). The Tri-County league is made up of local Christian schools and offers co-ed soccer in the fall. The Cascade League is a public school league, these schools offer greater competition in girls' volleyball, cross-country, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball and boys and girls track. The primary purpose for our athletic program is for students to build friendships, learn to be a team player, have fun and learn skills. 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.



Washington D.C. and New York Educational Trip

Every other year our middle school students have the opportunity to go to Washington DC and New York! In the spring, we take a week-long tour of our nation's capital, learning all about the rich Christian heritage on which our country is founded. This is a chock-full, fast-paced trip. We visit all the memorials, such as the Korean War, Vietnam War, and WWII War Memorials; Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, and the Washington Monument. We 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 also visit Arlington National Cemetery and see the Tombs of the Unknowns. We wrap up the trip by visiting New York City and attending 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, as well as a deeper appreciation for the Christian heritage and sacrifices of our nation's forefathers.