

EIGHTH GRADE

Bible

Eighth graders dive deep into the life and ministry of Christ through an in-depth study of the Gospel of John. This course highlights the unique characteristics of John's Gospel, its theological themes, and its call to faith. Students will explore Christ's deity, His miracles, teachings, and redemptive work, while applying lessons to their own spiritual growth and witness.

Key topics include:

- *Christ's Deity and Incarnation*: Understanding Jesus as God and Savior.
- *Faith and Salvation*: Exploring themes of new birth and eternal life.
- *Miracles and Ministry*: Investigating Christ's signs, teachings, and interactions with people like Nicodemus and the woman at the well.
- *Opposition and Sacrifice*: Examining Jesus' conflicts with religious leaders, His crucifixion, and resurrection.
- *Practical Application*: Growing in humility, faith, evangelism, and obedience. Through historical context, theological reflection, and personal application, this course challenges students to grow in their faith, stand firm in truth, and glorify God in their daily lives.

Textbook: Bible, Positive Action for Christ *The Life of Christ: From the Gospel of John*

English Language Arts Reading

Literature

In 8th grade, students will learn vocabulary strategies and knowledge (synonyms, homonyms, idioms, analogies, context clues); reading comprehension (text features, predictions, author's purpose, summary, generalization, details, sequencing, compare/contrast, and cause/effect); literary elements and genre study (characterization, plot, theme, setting, narrator, point of view, characteristics of genre); figurative language, literary devices, and persuasion, credibility and logical fallacies.

Textbooks: BJU Literature; teacher created novel units

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Writing & Grammar

The focus of writing and grammar in 8th grade includes types of sentences, parts of speech (nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, phrases and clauses, verbals and verbal phrases), subject-verb agreement, pronoun-antecedent agreement, pronoun usage, using adjectives and adverbs correctly, using troublesome words correctly, punctuation, and spelling.

Textbook: ABEKA *Grammar and Composition II*, 6th ed.

Updated: 12/2024

Math

Topics to be taught in 8th grade include integers, algebraic expressions, basic equations and inequalities, number theory, rational numbers, operations on rational numbers, percent, applying equations and inequalities, relations and functions, radicals, geometry, measurement (area and volume), and polynomials.

Textbook: BJU *Pre-Algebra* 3rd ed.

Science

The Biology course equips students to explore life's complexity through a biblical worldview, emphasizing design, homeostasis, and stewardship. Students will analyze organisms, study biological systems, evaluate historical and current scientific models, and apply ethical principles to real-world biological challenges.

Key topics include:

- *Foundations of Biology*: Attributes of life, chemical principles, and cellular structure and processes.
- *Genetics and Evolution*: Mendelian genetics, genetic engineering, population dynamics, and evaluating evolutionary theory.
- *Classification and Diversity*: Taxonomy, dichotomous keys, and the study of prokaryotes, protists, fungi, plants, and animals.
- *Human Biology*: Systems and functions of the human body, growth, development, and balanced living.
- *Ecology and Conservation*: Ecosystems, symbiosis, biochemical cycles, biodiversity, and ethical conservation.

This course fosters critical thinking and scientific inquiry, encouraging students to view biology to glorify God and care for His creation.

Textbook: BJU Press *Biology* 6th ed.

Social Studies

In Grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The content in Grade 8 builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. Students examine the American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights, reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents.

Textbook: BJU *American Republic* (U.S. History to 1877)

Updated: 12/2024