



ALISO VIEJO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

“. . . we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Romans 8:37
Guiding Hearts, Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2017-2018

ALISO VIEJO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL • MIDDLE SCHOOL

Bible

Philosophy Statement: *"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better."* Ephesians 1:17. Students will study the Bible and specifically learn to apply Biblical principles into life's everyday challenges. As students learn to develop a personal relationship with Christ, they will learn to develop character traits such as the Fruits of the Spirit, as well as their own spiritual gifts. Students will practice prayer and living in community with one another.

Course Goal: Through studying God's Word, the primary goal is for students to obtain and practice a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Students will study God's Word on a daily basis and understand what it means to hold a Biblical and Christian worldview.

Community Service:

- 12 hours per semester (24 hours/year)
- Fill out form completely and give to Mrs. Perry.
- Community Service Hours are included in Bible grade for a total of 100 points per semester.
- Please be aware of due dates for community service! (December 16th & May 26th)
- Serve the Lord and those around you!

Please refer to the handout "Community Service Guidelines" for more details.

Sixth Grade Bible: Winning the Race

Positive Action Bible Curriculum

By: Cherie Noel

Objective and Overview: Following the theme of athletic competition, your student will be led through this study to see the Christian life as a test of courage, inner strength and ultimate victory. Drawing from various Bible characters they will learn how the principles of God's Word can help them gain victory in the race of life.

Seventh Grade Bible: Daring Deliverers

Lessons from the Time of the Judges

By: Ollie E. Gibbs

Objective and Overview: In 7th grade Bible, students are learning what it means to be a Christian leader in today's world. Using the Old Testament judges, we will study both the negative and positive qualities of each. Our goal is that students diligently learn the words and works of our God so they can then successfully apply it to their own lives.

Eighth Grade Bible: Dynamic Christian Living

Positive Action Bible Curriculum

By: Frank Hamrick

Objective and Overview: The Bible encourages believers to grow in grace. It is not enough just to be saved, but God desires that we should be experiencing dynamic Christian growth. This curriculum teaches the basic tools to jump start a journey of spiritual growth. It will give our students a clearer understanding of salvation, learn how to study the Bible and recognize the power and purpose of prayer; and to share our faith and love towards God.

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Language Arts

Philosophy Statement: *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

John 1:1. God is the first Communicator. In the beginning God spoke, and there were the stars, moon, sun, and all that is the earth and heavens. Through the Holy Spirit, God speaks to each of us. God has given each of us the gift of human communication, the ability to be equipped in all forms of communication, context, written, and verbal expression. God has created the patterns and principles of communication and learning language is personal, interactive, and interrelated. It is the desire of our Lord to communicate with Him through prayer and to communicate with others as a reflection of His glory. *“Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Course Goal: In a Christian, creative, and cooperative learning environment, students will be supported as they develop into independent readers, writers, listeners, and speakers who communicate effectively and thoughtfully for various purposes.

Sixth through Eighth Grades

Using the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt California Collections, which is a comprehensive integrated English language arts program designed to provide in – depth coverage of the CA Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy and California English Language Development Standards, students will have opportunity to read and analyze complex literary and informational texts, to synthesize their responses, and to create original oral and written texts.

Grammar – Students practice the eight parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization, and word usage.

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Mathematics

Philosophy Statement: God is the Author of all creation, the source of all wisdom and knowledge. The unchanging principles of mathematics are the direct result of an unchanging God who designed those principles. *“I the Lord do not change.”* Malachi 3:6. *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”* Hebrews 13:8. Through the study of mathematics, students experience and discover the orderliness, precision, revelatory and unchanging nature of God. At Aliso Viejo Christian School, we have the unique opportunity and responsibility to integrate mathematical concepts with biblical truth to enhance the students’ understanding of and faith in God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Course 1

Course Goal: The students will explore and experience a variety of areas within the field of mathematics, including whole numbers and decimals, data and graphs, various algebra patterns and variables, number theory, fractions, ratios, percents, proportions, basics of geometry, measurement, probability, and integers. Students will learn a variety of problem solving strategies.

Pre-Algebra A

Course Goal: Students will master operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers and apply their knowledge to solve problems and compute accurately. Statistics and data analysis are applied by computing mean, median, mode, and range of data sets and analyzing data and samples for possible bias and misleading conclusions. Knowledge of fractions will be used to work with ratios, proportions, and probability. They will compute percentages including tax, tips, and interest. Students will identify angles, find area and perimeter of figures, and know the formulas for circumference and area of a circle. Students will calculate volume of prisms and cylinders. They will use variables as missing numbers in formulas and in ratios to represent part of an expression. They will solve one-step linear equations, convert units, and solve problems involving rates. Students will learn a variety of problem solving skills.

Pre-Algebra B

Course Goal: Students will master manipulating numbers and equations and apply their knowledge to statistics and data analysis. Students will understand and use factoring of numerators and denominators and properties of exponents. They will use the Pythagorean Theorem and calculate volume and surface area of basic three-dimensional shapes. They will be proficient in the use different representations of fractional numbers (fractions, decimals, and percents) and in changing from one to another. They will increase their use of variables, formulas, and ratio and proportion to compute percents of change and simple and compound interest. They will solve two-step linear equations and inequalities, convert units, and solve multi-step problems involving rates. Students will learn about functions and patterns and apply their knowledge to the graphing of linear equations. Students will learn a variety of problem solving strategies.

Pre-Algebra

Course Goal: An advanced 6th grade course combining Pre-Algebra A and B into one year. Students with a grade of 90% or above each semester qualify for Algebra 1 in 7th grade.

Algebra 1

Course Goal: A full year high school level Algebra 1 course. Students earning 80% or above in the class may be recommended for Geometry in 9th grade. Students earning 87% or above may be recommended for Geometry Honors in 9th grade. Students will develop an understanding of the symbolic language of mathematics. They will use symbolic reasoning and calculations with symbols including linear and quadratic equations and functions, exponential and radical expressions and functions, and rational expressions and functions. Algebraic skills and concepts are developed and used in a variety of problem solving situations and graphing.

Geometry Honors

Course Goal: An honors course for 8th graders who have successfully completed Algebra 1 in 7th grade with a grade of 90% or above each semester. Students earning 87% or above in the class may be recommended for Algebra 2 Honors in 9th grade. Students will be challenged to master all tools of geometry, including reasoning and proof. The course will cover geometric structure, congruence, similarity, and two- and three-dimensional measurement at a challenging level.

Science

Philosophy Statement: God is the great Creator and Scientist. Science is the study of and exploration of God’s creation and the discoveries of God’s Truth. God’s Truth is revealed through the organized, scientific investigation of His creative works. My teaching philosophy is built on the foundation of realism in which subject matter must be addressed, but is also paired with notes of existentialism in which students can continually make choices. I will take existentialist ideals and promote the intellectual growth of the individual using applicable, relevant content matter. By laying this foundation I hope to teach and apply the subject matter in order to create informed stewards of the community. *“The works of the LORD [are] great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.” Psalms 111:2*

Course Goal: The students will explore God’s creation and will continue to discover God’s Truth through the stability and cycles of science. By learning of God’s magnificent works the students will be able to thank and worship Him more truthfully. With a solid biblical and faithful foundation students will be able to:

1. Develop an understanding of how science is a part of our faith and everyday lives.
2. Become proficient with basic science skills.
3. Cultivate an understanding and appreciation God's divinity and the nature of science.
4. Practice and apply scientific concepts through the use of interactive science notebooks, a variety of projects, hands-on activities, and lab experiments.
5. Progress in one’s ability to think scientifically and prepare for a higher level science education.

6th Grade EARTH SCIENCE

ISBN 0078239877 (2001)

Sixth Grade students focus on the study of Earth Science. This includes such topics as Earth’s structure and movement, energy resources, erosional forces, meteorology, Earth’s atmosphere, astronomy and environmental science.

7th Grade LIFE SCIENCE

ISBN 0078239893 (2001)

ISBN 013368489X (2011)

Seventh Grade students focus on the study of Life Science. This includes such topics as the structure of organisms, cell biology, genetics, classification and life’s diversity, creationism vs. evolution theory, ecosystems and human body system.

8th Grade PHYSICAL SCIENCE

ISBN 0133684806 (2011)

ISBN 0133684792 (2011)

Eighth Grade students focus on the study of Physical Science. This includes such topics as the study of atomic structure, elements and matter, energy, chemical interactions, forces, motion, power, energy and electricity.

All students learn about these topics through investigation, experimentation, independent thinking, and research, analysis of data, interpretation of data and synthesis of applied concepts. The principles of Physical and Biological Sciences are integrated in this course.

Social Studies

Philosophy Statement: Through the study of Social Sciences, students will discover they are actually learning about “His”-story – the story of God’s creation of man and His continuing work in His creation and our lives. The students ascertain who they are by where they have come from, making connections between themselves and His creation. As students study man and his culture the sovereignty of God is revealed “...for there is not authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” Romans 13:1b. Through the study of man and his culture, within this academic discipline, students learn to discern God’s grace (redeeming our fallen world) and power (controlling the leaders and nations). “God is king of all the earth; sing to Him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His holy throne.” Psalm 47:7-8.

Course Goal: Through a Christ-centered worldview, students experience a variety of content within the field of history through the use of reading, discussion, and participation in group and individual projects. Each unit will incorporate some if not all of the following: Biblical integration, interactive student notebooks, study guide, study skills, geography, critical thinking, writing, projects, cooperative group activities, and assessments.

6th Grade: A Message of Ancient Days

The Sixth Grade course encompasses a study of early world history through a Biblical foundation. Students begin by learning about Paleolithic man’s development into hunter-gatherer societies and early agricultural towns. The beginnings of civilization and culture are studied in the formation of the first city-states and the first empires of Mesopotamia. Other early empires studied include Egypt, China, India, Greece, and the beginning of the Roman Republic. The culture and daily life of different ancient societies are experienced through a variety of activities and critical thinking that includes reading, art, writing, and reader’s theater. Sixth grade students complete various projects through the year.

7th Grade: Across the Centuries

The Seventh Grade course covers world history from the Roman Empire through the Renaissance through a Biblical foundation. Units include the cultures and empires of Islam, Africa, China, and Japan. The development of Western civilization and culture is emphasized through the study of Medieval and Renaissance Europe. Students learn about significant developments such as the Protestant Reformation, the Scientific Revolution, Enlightenment, and the Age of Exploration and how these past events impact their society and culture today. Understanding of these subjects is reinforced through a variety of activities including art, reading, writing, projects, and a field trip to Medieval Times.

8th Grade A More Perfect Union

The Eighth Grade course concentrates on a survey of the United States History from the colonial time period through the Civil War and Reconstruction through a Biblical foundation. Students explore the events that lead to the struggle for American independence and the formation of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. In expert groups, students have the opportunity to prepare and teach a chapter about a different region of the newly formed nation. Students explore three historical examples of oppression. Understanding of these subjects is reinforced through activities including art, reading, writing, and projects. Learning about American history and government is brought to life by the opportunity to participate in a field trip to Washington, D.C. and New York City.

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Physical Education

Philosophy Statement: *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”* I Corinthians 6:19-20. The students, in Kindergarten through 8th grade, will learn to understand and maintain their bodies with respect to themselves and to the Lord. Physical activity is essential for students to enjoy a healthy lifestyle throughout their school years and into the rest of their lives. *“Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”* Romans 12:1. Through the inclusion in the curriculum of team sports, non-competitive activities, and fitness training, student interest will remain high as positive attitudes about Physical Education and motivate them to incorporate physical fitness activities in their daily life.

Aliso Viejo Christian School believes that physical education is essential. It is valuable for children to learn to use their bodies and develop physical skills, both for reasons of health and enjoyment. God has given us wonderful bodies and minds, and we have the responsibility of taking good care of His gifts to us. Playing sports also allows students to learn good character, sportsmanship, and perseverance. The goal of our Physical Education program is not to win but to teach child to do their best with the gifts and abilities given to them.

Middle School students also have the option of participating in after-school league sports. AVCS offers volleyball, cross country, cheer, basketball, soccer, flag football, softball, lacrosse, and track and field.

Grading: Grades are based on participation and being properly dressed for class. Each student begins with 10 points per day. Being tardy to class will result in a 2-point deduction and failure to properly dress for PE will result in a 4-point reduction. There is no partial credit for being

partially properly dressed. Points may also be taken away for lack of participation and effort.

Physical Education Dress Code

- Gray t-shirt with school insignia or authorized AVCS sport-specific t-shirt
- Mesh navy blue shorts unrolled with AVCS logo
- Solid colored socks
- Athletic, closed-toe shoes

Study Skills/Study Hall

Philosophy Statement: *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”* Colossians 3:23-24. *“Whatever the God of heaven has prescribed, let it be done with diligence for the temple of the God of heaven.”* Ezra 7:23.

Course Goal: At Aliso Viejo Christian School, students will learn the skills to become organized in their educational endeavors, good note-taking, and efficient study skills. They will also be given classroom time to read and study.

Reference Materials:

*[The Everything Guide to Study Skills](#) by Cynthia Clumeck Muchnick, MA

*[The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens](#) by Sean Covey

*[Middle School Study Skills](#) by Teacher Created Resources

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Music

Philosophy Statement: *“The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my victory. He is my God and I will praise Him; He is my father’s God and I will exalt Him!”* Exodus 15:2-3. From the beginning, music has been an integral part of society. David himself was not only a man after God’s own heart, but a talented musician as well. At Aliso Viejo Christian School, through the study of music, students will experience and discover how valuable music is in our daily lives. Using Biblical integration, students will have hands-on experiences with instruments, educational field trips, ACSI choral/piano festivals, music theory instruction, and student-driven musicals in a nurturing environment. *“Praise Him with tambourine and dancing; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!”* Psalm 150:4.

Course Goal: All of the students in grades 6-8 will be learning a comprehensive music curriculum that will follow music content standards while also following and teaching biblical principles. Music unlocks self-expression, intelligence and creativity as well as teaches the skills of collaboration, critical-thinking and teamwork. It is my goal to help each student use self-expression to glorify the Lord through music.

Reading and Writing Music: The students will each learn how to read, write and perform music notation including use of rhythm and standard music symbols, as well as learn to transcribe music by ear using these same symbols and notation. The students practice the use of music notation through compositions and arrangements of simple pieces of music.

Performing: The students will apply vocal and instrumental skills to various music repertoires which will represent various genres, styles and cultures. The students will be working to practice their skills of expression, technical accuracy, tone quality on an instrument and voice, and articulation. Performances will be both in small groups and a larger ensemble.

Music History: The students will analyze and learn about the role of music in past and present cultures and civilizations. The students will explore the different genres, music styles, musicians and composers in various cultures as they relate to overall music history and as well as they parallel the content of their social studies curriculum. 6th grade will focus more on early world history, 7th grade will focus on later world history and 8th grade will focus on music from the United States.

Aesthetic Valuing: The students will listen to, analyze and evaluate live and recorded music performances throughout this year. The students will analyze and compare the use of musical elements in various genres, styles and cultures as well as learn and describe musical forms. The students will complete writing assignments to evaluate the quality of musical performances, compositions, arrangements on their own compositions and those of other composers. The students will derive meaning from each of the musical examples that are played in class.

Projects and Presentations: The students will complete various projects throughout the year including original compositions, journal entries, performances, historical presentations and many others that will focus on music skills.

Drama and Fine Arts

Philosophy Statement: *“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* Matthew 5:14-16.

Course Goal: All of us have God given gifts and talents. It is my goal to help students to seek out and use those talents first and foremost as if unto the Lord. My desire is to help students to develop confidence and experience the joy of entertaining others, to expose the student to the wonderful world of art through a variety of hands on art projects, and to develop an interest for art through creation and imagination.

Course Content: This course will consist of learning and participating in drama activities, projects, and performances, along with tapping into the creative side with multiple art projects. This course is divided into three sections, which will be ongoing throughout the year.

- **Drama Projects and Performances:** Students will be learning and doing a multiple array of drama games, grade level drama projects and performance.
- **Drama and Art Projects:** Students will combine art projects that relate and enhance their drama projects.
- **Art:** Students will learn about master artists throughout history and will be creating works of art in the style of those artists. Students will create art projects in a variety of mediums.

Homework: Homework will consist of memorizing lines for drama, make-up work, and art project parental sign-off.

Grading: Each student is graded on an individual basis. Projects are graded with the following criteria in mind:

- **Effort:** striving for personal best
- **Craftsmanship:** time and care invested
- **Creativity/Originality:** it is your idea, not copied from someone else’s idea
- **Following instructions:** criteria for assignment met

Technology

Philosophy Statement: As a part of the ministry of Lutheran Church of the Cross at Aliso Viejo Christian School, the AVCS media center shares the same mission – “to be a Christ-centered, Bible-based environment which provides academic excellence and nurtures students to become life-long learners who know Jesus Christ and share His Word, His grace, and His love with all people.” More specifically, the AVCS media center serves as a major learning laboratory serving the entire school as a support to classroom teachers and assisting the students. A major emphasis of the instruction will be helping the students to learn how to learn.

“In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.” Ephesians 1:11.

Course Goal: In a Christ-centered environment, this course will incorporate a wide range of technology and application software to offer students the proficiency they need for success in the 21st Century. The primary focus is to provide engaging and interactive projects that apply cross-curricular based skills across content areas, based on the appropriate grade level.

6th Grade – Adventures in Computers

The sixth grade students will be unlocking the mysteries of the 21st century, by incorporating technology to create exciting sights and sounds to your presentations. They will explore the realms of Microsoft Office Suite and new Web 2.0 applications as they work to create multimedia presentations that will astound their teachers and peers. Lifelong skills will be gained through this class that include research, keyboarding, internet safety, public speaking, cooperative learning and much more!!!

7th Grade – Video Production

The seventh graders will be exploring the beginning skills in making movies and telling a visual story; from storyboarding, writing scripts and Claymation to short and fun camera shooting techniques. They will work on lab computers and iPad minis using Movie Maker and iMovie software. They will develop and refine basic skills in shooting and editing. Students will film projects working in small groups and create a final film project that reflects the skills learned throughout the course of the year.

8th Grade – Lego Robotics

This will be a hands-on, minds-on approach, using the Lego Mindstorms EV3 kits for the eighth grade students. It is designed to help students take ownership of the learning process, enabling them to actively develop the problem-solving skills and collaborative outlook necessary to become creators, not just consumers. Students will build, program, and test their solutions based on real-life robotics technology.

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Spanish/ Foreign Language

Philosophy Statement: God created the world solely through the power of His Word. He created our world with diversity and differences. The knowledge of other languages is one of the tools to learn about all of His children. Through this language knowledge, the lives and cultures of our brothers and sisters in Christ come alive. *“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”* 1 Corinthians 13:1.

Course Goal: Students will develop Spanish language skills through reading, writing, speaking and listening, in fun and interactive ways. They will use new learned vocabulary and grammar for in-class dialogue assignments, projects and quizzes. They will also learn about other cultures around the world in cooperative groups, through investigation. We will explore God’s love and grace for all the nations.

Spanish I

Students will learn basic language skills primarily through exposure. In my opinion the best way to learn a language is to go to the country and immerse oneself in the language and culture. Unfortunately, this is not an option for our classes; therefore I will bring the language and culture to the students! I intend to speak in Spanish for about 50% of class time. Of course, this exposure will be coupled with gestures and clues so that students can make the necessary connections. We will also be participating in a project called “The Pulsera Project” during which we will learn about Central-American culture and daily lives, as well as have the opportunity to help support their communities through selling their handmade crafts. The students will be expected to use Spanish where they can, and will practice reading, writing, listening and speaking through a variety of activities. Students will be graded on participation, projects, tests, class work, and homework. We will also learn about products, practices and perspectives of Spanish speakers, in order to foster

cultural awareness. *¡Ven Conmigo!* is the textbook that will be used as a roadmap and will be supplemented with outside materials. This class will be a supportive environment where students can learn Spanish and explore different cultures in exciting and meaningful ways.

Spanish II

Students will learn basic language skills primarily through exposure. In my opinion the best way to learn a language is to go to the country and immerse oneself in the language and culture. Unfortunately, this is not an option for our classes; therefore I will bring the language and culture to the students! I intend to speak in Spanish for 50-75% of class time. Of course, this exposure will be coupled with gestures and clues so that students can make the necessary connections. We will also be participating in a project called “The Pulsera Project” during which we will learn about Central-American culture and daily lives, as well as have the opportunity to help support their communities through selling their handmade crafts. After Christmas we will spend time reading a short chapter book together, discussing, and dramatizing the scenes. The students will be expected to use Spanish where they can, and will practice reading, writing, listening and speaking through a variety of activities. Students will be graded on participation, projects, tests, class work, and homework. We will also learn about products, practices and perspectives of Spanish speakers, in order to foster cultural awareness. *¡Ven Conmigo!* is the textbook that will be used as a roadmap and will be supplemented with outside materials. This class will be a supportive environment where students can learn Spanish and explore different cultures in exciting and meaningful ways.

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Adventures of the Mind/Speech and Debate

Philosophy Statement: *“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...”* Romans 12:6a. We are all created in the image of God and the greatest commandment is to love God and to express our love for Him in and through our lives. *“And he said to him, ‘You shall **love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with **all your mind.**’”* Matthew 22:37. After learning more about God and His will in His Word, we will be prayerfully transformed and our minds renewed. *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”* Romans 12:2. Through our birth and spiritual rebirth, we have been gifted in various and unique ways. *“Having **gifts** that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...”* Romans 12:6a. God says use your mind, the Bible teaches us to renew our minds, and we can accomplish that through using our God-given talents and gifts. Such gifts and talents will be displayed in the elective, Adventures of the Mind, as students participate in engineering challenges, participate in National History Day and the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair, and learn how to prepare and deliver a speech. *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for **building others up** according to their needs, that it may **benefit those who listen.**”* Ephesians 4:29.

Course Goal: The students will experience a new perspective on solving STEM challenges, learn and apply new vocabulary words, create their own fractured fairy tale, and have the opportunity to participate in competitions such as National History Day and the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair. Students will also become aware of the importance of communication in personal and professional environments. There will be many opportunities to practice public speaking through fun and engaging activities. We will explore how to prepare a speech as well as how to properly deliver one. The students will also develop strategies for overcoming speech anxiety and become more confident when speaking publicly. We will also learn how to debate issues together in groups with participation in both credible presenting as well as actively listening to each side.

Textbook: None

Materials:

- STEM Challenges instructions and materials
- Primary Sources
<https://historyexplorer.si.edu/sites/default/files/PrimarySources.pdf>
- Logic puzzles
- Fractured Fairy Tales
- National History Day handbooks
- Orange County Science and Engineering Fair handbooks
- Composition Book
- Bible

Course Content:

- STEM Challenges
- PSAT/ACT vocabulary
- Primary source analysis and application
- National History Day preparation
- Orange County Science and Engineering Fair preparation
- Speech Preparation and Delivery

Areas to be evaluated:

- Adventures of the Mind journal
- Fractured Fairy Tale little book
- Class participation
- Group participation
- National History Day participation
- Orange County Science and Engineering Fair participation
- Speech Preparation and Delivery

Additional Activities:

- Students will create an entry and present it to the judges on the Orange County National History Day.
- Students will create a science fair exhibit and present it to the judges during the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair.

English Language Development

Philosophy Statement: Second language learners need a safe, nurturing environment in order to practice and test out their new language skills. It is the goal of this classroom to provide such for the students assigned to ESL/ELD.

Course Goal: In a safe environment, ESL students are encouraged to practice the English language. Correction, support, and guidance are gently provided in order to encourage our new language learners to practice. It is a place where the students may “fail” and then learn from their mistakes. It is also a place for them to ask questions about our language and culture without fear of embarrassment.

English Language Development classes will use California Collections Language Workshop. This program supplies a full year or research based, standards aligned lessons and activities crafted for daily use in periods of designated English instruction.

Literature for Life

Philosophy Statement: *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* John 1:1. God is the first Communicator. In the beginning God spoke, and there were the stars, moon, sun, and all that is the earth and heavens. Through the Holy Spirit, God speaks to each of us. God has given each of us the gift of human communication, the ability to be equipped in all forms of communication, context, written, and verbal expression. God has created the patterns and principles of communication and learning language is personal, interactive, and interrelated. It is the desire of our Lord to communicate with Him through prayer and to communicate with others as a reflection of His glory. *“Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Course Goal: In a Christian, creative, and cooperative learning environment, students will be supported as they develop into independent readers, writers, listeners, and speakers who communicate effectively and thoughtfully for various purposes.

Classes will focus on reading strategies to build lifelong readers and foster a love for reading. We will work together to incorporate comprehension strategies with sets of steps that good readers use to make sense of text. Comprehension strategies help students become purposeful, active readers who are in control of their own reading comprehension.