



Willamette Christian School

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Eighth Grade Overview

Bible

Lightbearers, by Summit Ministries, is a video-based curriculum for 8th grade designed to help students clearly understand the tenets of the Christian worldview, and how they compare to the tenets of the leading humanistic worldviews of our day. Students will learn how to apply their Christian faith to every area of life: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, sociology, psychology, law, politics, economics, and history. Students also use **How to Be Your Own Selfish Pig** by author Susan Schaeffer Macaulay. Having had opportunity to meet many different people from all walks of life, the author walks students through their stories as they search for the answers to their pressing questions about life.

Language Arts

Language is a gift from God. It is a person's most important tool — the tool of thought. In **Writing Strategies, Level H** published by Zaner-Bloser, students are taught a using a strategic and innovative approach which makes it easier to improve writing. With rubric-based instruction, students are provided with clear guidelines and expectations for their writing, so they know what to do to succeed. The curriculum uses a model-practice-apply instructional plan which helps students improve their writing by carefully walking them through the writing process. Grammar Instruction is taught in conjunction with writing, so students learn how to best apply grammar to their compositions. The **S.R.A. Reading Laboratory** may be used in conjunction with the textbooks to improve reading comprehension and speed.

Literature

Middle school students are introduced to classic and modern literature. They will learn the arts of contemplation, discussion, pacing, and discerning the quality of a book. Students will become aware of and explore a variety of genres. Some of the books that eighth graders may read are **Harriet Tubman**, **The Old Man and The Sea**, **The Hobbit**, **Great Expectations**, **A Mid Summer Night's Dream**, **The Pearl**, **Huckleberry Finn**, **Sarah, Plain and Tall**, **Johnny Tremain**, and **My Side of the Mountain**.

Mathematics

Two levels of math are offered for eighth grade students, **Passport to Algebra and Geometry** and **Algebra 1**, by McDougal Littell. Each student is carefully evaluated to determine their appropriate placement. In **Passport to Algebra and Geometry**, students are also introduced to topics of algebra, including integer operations, solving algebraic equations, topics of statistics, measurement, and geometry. In **Algebra 1**, students work with algebraic equations, linear functions, polynomials, and quadratic equations. Real life applications of algebra are emphasized.

Science

Earth Science, by BJU Press, reveals the wonders and complexities of God's physical creation. Students will study the earth's composition, from the inside out, including rocks and minerals, volcanoes, earthquakes, water cycle, mountain formation, oceans, our atmosphere and weather, etc. The composition and exploration of the universe and earth's place in it will also be studied. God's creative power and design will be clearly revealed as students are exposed to the complexities of the physical world around us and of the processes that sustain it. Students will build a foundation in the concepts of geology and astronomy and be strengthened in their understanding of God as the sole creator of our world and the surrounding universe.

History

United States History- Civil War to the Present, by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, helps eighth grade students understand America's past and its impact today. Students will study units on The Nation Breaks Apart (1861 – 1877), A Growing America (1850 – 1920), The Beginning of Modern America (1868 - 1920), Prosperity, Depression, and War (1929 – 1945), Postwar America (1945 – 1975), and Modern America (1968 – present). They will examine the culture, personalities, and circumstances that have made America great.

Physical Education, Computer & Spanish are also core-classes for middle school students. Quarterly Elective Classes which include Band and Choir are offered to give students opportunities to explore and learn new venues in the Arts and Sciences.