

# Middle School Curriculum & Reading List



## COURSE SEQUENCE

DISCIPLINE	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
<b>History</b>	World Geography	American History I	American History II
<b>English</b>	Literature I	Literature & Language Arts II	Literature & Language Arts III
<b>Religion</b>	This is Your Faith	The Life of Grace	Toward Confirmation
<b>Science</b>	Earth Science	Life Science	Physical Science
<b>Math<sup>1</sup></b>	MS Math → Pre-Algebra → Algebra I → Geometry → Algebra II		
<b>Foreign Language &amp; Language Arts<sup>2</sup></b>	Language Arts I	Intro to Latin I	Intro to Latin II
<b>Music &amp; Electives</b>	Intro to Music	During their elective block, students choose from a selection of semester long, for credit courses that supplement their core classes. <i>See options below.</i>	
<b>Physical Education</b>	Students have gym class every day, every year.		

1. Students enroll in a sequence of 3 courses, based on prior experience and placement results with approval from the Head of Middle School.

2. Students in 6th Grade enroll into an additional Language Arts class (3 days/week) and Intro to Music (2 days/week). Students in 7th and 8th Grade take Latin (completing in two years the equivalent of the High School "Introduction to Latin" course). Spanish is available as a for-credit Elective Class during Activity Period.

### Activity Period Offerings

- Band\*
- Study Skills Resource
- Speech & Debate
- Computer Coding
- Art
- Bugs & Botany
- Wood Working
- Moneyball
- Spanish

NOTES: \* Year-long elective

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## READING LIST

### 6TH GRADE

#### History (*World Geography*)

- In each unit, students receive a custom packet (created by the School) to help them learn the regions, countries, major cities, bodies of water and other significant features of the world.

#### English (*Literature & Language Arts I*)

- *Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan*, John Flanagan
- *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens
- *Black Ships Before Troy*, Rosemary Sutcliff
- *Little Britches: Father and I Were Ranchers*, Ralph Moody
- Institute of Excellence in Writing (IEW) Curriculum, Structure and Style, Level B

#### Religion (*This is Your Faith*)

- *Following Christ*, Faith & Life Series, Ignatius Press
- *St. Thomas More*, Elizabeth M. Ince
- *St. Paul the Apostle*, Mary F. Windeatt

#### Science (*Earth Science*)

- *Earth Science*, McGraw Hill

#### Mathematics (*varies by student*)

- *Middle School MathCourse 2*, Holt
- *Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life (Pre-Algebra)*, Larson/Boswell
- *Big Ideas Algebra I*, Larson

#### Arts (*Intro to Music*)

- *Essential Elements for Band Book 1*, Hal Leonard

### 7TH GRADE

#### History (*American History I*)

- *U.S. History: Beginnings to Civil War*, Holt

#### English (*Literature & Language Arts II*)

- *The Giver*, Lois Lowry
- *The Wanderings of Odysseus*, Rosemary Sutcliff
- *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain
- *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Arthur Doyle
- Institute of Excellence in Writing (IEW) Curriculum, Structure and Style, Level B

#### Religion (*The Life of Grace*)

- *The Life of Grace*, Faith & Life Series, Ignatius Press
- *St. Francis of the Seven Seas*, Albert J. Nevins
- *Junia: The Fictional Life and Death of an Early Christian*, Michael Giesler

#### Mathematics (*varies by student*)

- *Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life (Pre-Algebra)*, Larson/Boswell
- *Big Ideas Algebra I*, Larson
- *Geometry*, Holt

#### Foreign Language (*Intro to Latin I*)

- Cambridge Latin Course: Unit 1

### 8TH GRADE

#### History (*American History II*)

- *U.S. History: Civil War to Present*, Holt

#### English (*Literature & Language Arts III*)

- *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury
- *Twelve Angry Men*, Reginald Rose
- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Frederick Douglass
- *Julius Caesar*, William Shakespeare
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee
- A collection of short stories: "Up the Slide," Jack London; "The Tell-Tale Heart," Edgar Allen Poe; "The Passing of Black Eagle," O. Henry; "The Day I Got Lost," Isaac Bashevis Singer; "An Episode of War," Stephen Crane
- Poems by J.R.R. Tolkien, Henry Wodsworth Longfellow, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Frost, G.K. Chesterton, Robert Service, Wilfred Owen, and others
- Institute of Excellence in Writing (IEW) Curriculum, Structure and Style, Level B

#### Religion (*Toward Confirmation*)

- *Our Life in the Church, Faith & Life Series*, Ignatius Press
- *St. Edmund*, Campion

#### Foreign Language (*Intro to Latin II*)

- *Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata*, Pars I

## ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHTS

**Systematic Writing Methodology from IEW.** The Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW), offers a modern curriculum built on a classical approach for developing students into effective writers with sound grammar. All Northridge English teachers are trained in this methodology and integrate it into their curriculum. Students' consistent, year over year application of the IEW practices builds strong writers.

**Study Skills Curriculum.** Study Skills are taught as a graded component of every Middle School class. Skills taught include: organization, note-taking, test-taking, and annotating. In addition, students receive individual coaching on these skills via their advising sessions, and receive a Northridge assignment notebook (customized to Northridge's calendar).