

# LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM



## MATH

The framework for learning mathematics in the lower school years is grounded in the three-step learning process of moving from concrete to pictorial, then abstract. Students learn to master mathematical concepts at a deeper understanding level that enables them to move on to new learning levels with confidence.

## LANGUAGE ARTS

A customized, balanced literacy program begins at the primary levels with a multi-sensory, brain-based approach to teaching foundational skills in phonics, reading, spelling, language arts, and composition. Using a workshop approach to reading and writing, students are given direct instructional support and a variety of daily reading and writing experiences that are necessary in the complex process of becoming independent, thoughtful readers and writers. Each year students build off of the foundational skills developed in previous grades.

## SCIENCE

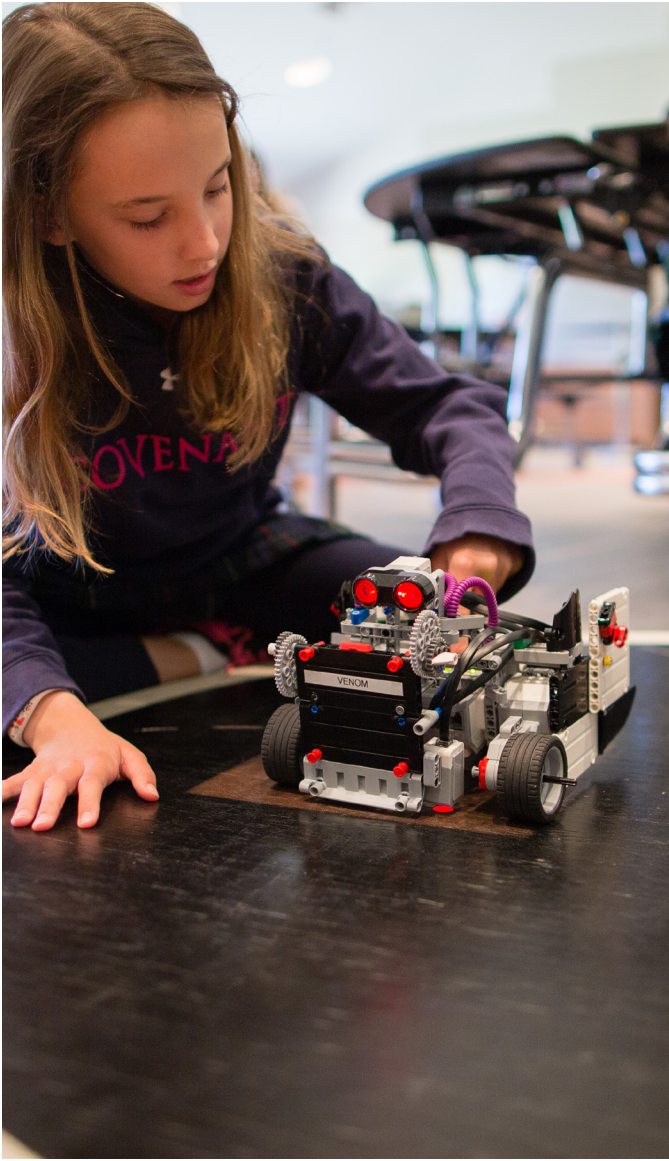
Essential concepts drawn from the fields of science are joined with hands-on experiments and problem-based learning to which students can relate in their everyday lives. Students are able to characterize that while the created world is vastly complex, it's order consistently reflects God's laws.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Students explore different communities and cultures both past and present to gain appreciation for the complexity and diversity of humankind. They learn much about their own life by contrasting life in other countries with their own. History and geography studies investigate how God acts providentially in time and place and generates examples of how humans have developed various aspects of culture.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

Students develop listening and conversational skills as well as cultural appreciation through games, songs, and role play. Exploring an unfamiliar culture through the study of its language invites students to emphasize and value people beyond their own experience. Spanish is taught in grades EK-5.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students learn motor skills, fitness, eye-hand coordination, rhythm and lead-up games to team and lifetime sports. Along with guided physical activities, students practice cooperation and leadership skills. The content of health and healthy living is specified as a way to serve God and others around us.

## ARTS

The main focus of arts in the lower school is to foster creativity within the disciplines of music and art with a variety of experiences in presentation, performance, and enjoyment. Young students experience the formal principles of the disciplines and incorporate them through practice and observation. In grades EK-5, students take visual arts where they learn drawing and painting techniques, tissue collage, clay and pottery design, recycling art and sculpture, weaving, mask making, and art history and appreciation. Music techniques are taught in grades TK-4 and include singing, matching pitch, rhythmic patterns, reading and writing music notations, and music appreciation. These students also gain experience with the glockenspiel, xylophone, and recorder. Fifth grade continues with general music as well as instruction in the ukulele.

## BIBLE

Students learn the story of God interacting with His people and calling them to a faith in Jesus Christ through understanding of biblical themes, key passages, and text exploration. Special attention will be given to covenantal theology and connecting Old Testament themes and stories to their fulfillment in Christ. Students learn through modeling and practice to become responsible caretakers of creation and peacemakers among their peers and community.

## HIGHLIGHTS BY GRADE

Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Big Truths for Little People, Advent, Lord's Prayer, Fruit of the Spirit, What Would Jesus Do?	Old Testament: Genesis to the return from exile, the life of Jesus, Jesus as Savior	God's promises as shown through both old and new testament events and people	Old Testament: Creation to Promised Land with emphasis on Moses and Joseph	Joshua-Solomon, journaling and service projects based on the Fruit of the Spirit	Jesus' life and the four Gospels

## COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

A coherent program at the primary level provides students opportunities to develop information literacy skills, computer proficiency, and safe digital citizenship awareness. Students also use creativity and collaboration to create digital products.

## MEDIA CENTER

All lower school students benefit from time each week in the media center. They develop important skills and an appreciation for literature through story times, book discussion, instruction in information literacy, and the Readers are Leaders program.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

## MATH

The study of mathematics in middle school intends to deepen students' knowledge and skills, and to proficiently apply these understandings to mathematical reasoning and analysis in middle school through high school. All middle school math courses focus on thinking logically, using a variety of strategies and tools, communicating mathematical concepts effectively, and problem solving.

### HIGHLIGHTS BY GRADE

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
6th grade math begins with review of arithmetic and basic number sense, including decimal and fraction operations which prepare students for units of study in ratios and percents. Integers, variables, equations and inequalities, 2 and 3-dimensional geometry, and statistics are other units of study. This course will focus on thinking logically, using a variety of strategies and tools, communicating mathematical concepts effectively, and problem solving.	7th grade math teaches units on ratios and proportional relationships, unit conversions, integers throughout all mathematical operations, order of operations and expressions, continued development of equations and inequalities, geometry, statistics and probability. This course will focus on thinking logically, using a variety of strategies and tools, communicating mathematical concepts effectively, and problem solving.  7th grade math honors (pre-algebra) introduces algebra through solving equations and inequalities, exponent rules, linear relations and functions, radicals, angle relationships, angles and polygons, and unit conversions. This course will focus on thinking logically, using a variety of strategies and tools, communicating mathematical concepts effectively, and problem solving.	8th grade math (pre-algebra) introduces algebra through solving equations and inequalities, exponent rules, linear relations and functions, radicals, angle relationships, angles and polygons, and unit conversions. This course will focus on thinking logically, using a variety of strategies and tools, communicating mathematical concepts effectively, and problem solving.  8th grade math honors (Algebra 1) units of study include the real numbers system, expressions, linear and quadratic equations including their graphs, inequalities, systems of equations, polynomials, relations, functions, radical expressions and equations, and rational expressions. Introduces algebra through solving equations and inequalities, exponent rules, linear relations and functions, radicals, angle relationships, angles and polygons, and unit conversions. This course will focus on thinking logically, using a variety of strategies and tools, communicating mathematical concepts effectively, and problem solving.

## ENGLISH

Middle school students interact with complex texts and read for meaning from a variety of literature that is crucial to their learning and preparation for high school and college. The writing process established in the middle school years gives students the framework to apply their skills to persuasive, informative and narrative writing styles. Students continue to develop their grammar skills through exposure to more complex concepts and continual review of basic grammar mechanics. Students learn to conduct cross-discipline research writing assignments to build competency of the research process, culminating in the process of writing a research paper.

### HIGHLIGHTS BY GRADE

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Narrative, informative, and persuasive writing	Narrative, persuasive, and research based writing	Narrative, informative, and research writing culminating in a research paper

## SCIENCE

The content of life, earth, and physical science provides rich opportunities for students to examine the phenomena of physical and living things as part of God's plan. Science courses integrate lab experiments and projects designed to improve a student's ability in the areas of critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration.

### HIGHLIGHTS BY GRADE

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Life Science: cells, heredity, DNA, viruses, bacteria, protists and fungi, animals, plants and dissection	Earth Science: geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy	Physical Science: motion and forces, energy and waves (sound, light and electricity) magnetism and chemistry



## SOCIAL STUDIES

Through the comprehensive study of history and geography of the United States and the world, students investigate how humanity has responded to God's call to care for and unfold the earth. Students learn themes central to the concept of culture formation through the study of elements that shape cultures and countries.

### HIGHLIGHTS BY GRADE

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
U.S. History Part 1: Jamestown Colony to the Civil War	U.S. History Part 2: Civil War to the present	World History Part 1

## WORLD LANGUAGES

Students study world languages to develop a competency in speaking another language. Through the discipline of language study, students' perceptions and understandings of other cultures as well as their own are enriched. Middle school students take Latin (6th: Greek Mythology, 7th: Latin Ia, 8th: Latin Ib) and Spanish is offered as an elective.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students acquire specific game skills and strategies, along with setting personal fitness goals with an emphasis on life sports and healthy living. Students in grades 7-8 may participate on Covenant Day athletic teams.

## BIBLE

Students build upon their knowledge of events and themes recorded within scripture so that their understanding of what the Bible teaches about God, humanity, and self is deepened. From the study of scripture, a Christian worldview for approaching every issue is developed.

### HIGHLIGHTS BY GRADE

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Old Testament survey	Gospels	Acts and Epistles

## MEDIA CENTER

In middle school, students focus on developing important research skills. In sixth grade, topics include website selection and evaluation, fair use policies, copyright, plagiarism, and online note-taking. In grades 7-8, students dive deeper, gaining a better understanding of citing, MLA and APA, use of search engines, website applicability, bias, navigability, validity, authority, and misinformation.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

- Art (6-8)
- Band (6-8)
- Choir (6-8)
- Create (6-8)
- Drama (6-8)
- E-Commerce (8)
- Chapel/Leadership (8)
- Lions Strength & Mobility (8)
- Spanish (6-8)



# HIGH SCHOOL COURSES & ELECTIVES

## ENGLISH

Language and Literature (CP, H)  
 American Literature (CP, H)  
 Composition & Literature (CP, H)  
 English Language and Composition (AP)  
 English Literature (AP)  
 British and World Literature (CP, H)

## MATH

Algebra I  
 Algebra II (CP, H)  
 Geometry (CP, H)  
 Pre-Calculus (CP, H)  
 Calculus AB (AP)  
 Calculus BC (AP)  
 Statistics (CP, AP)

## SCIENCE

Biology (CP, H, AP^)  
 Chemistry (CP, H, AP^)  
 Physics 1 (AP)  
 Environmental Science (CP, H, AP)  
 Exercise Science (CP, H)

## SOCIAL STUDIES

World History (CP, H)  
 U.S. History (CP, H, AP)  
 Government/Economics (CP, H)  
 Government and Politics: U.S. (AP)  
 Human Geography (AP)  
 European History (AP)  
 Psychology/Sociology (H)  
 Psychology (AP)

## WORLD LANGUAGES

French I-II  
 French III-IV (H)  
 Spanish I, II  
 Spanish III, IV (H)  
 Spanish (AP)  
 Latin II  
 Latin III-IV (H)  
 Latin (AP)

## HEALTH

Health (half credit)

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Participation in a CDS Sport (2 Seasons)  
 Strength and Fitness Training

## BIBLE

Old Testament Survey/Freshman Seminar New  
 Testament Survey (half credit)  
 Christian Doctrine  
 Engaging the Culture: Introduction to Apologetics  
 and Worldviews

*Courses are college preparatory, unless noted otherwise.*  
 CP = College Preparatory  
 H = Honors  
 AP = Advanced Placement  
*Classes are offered based on student interest and faculty availability.*

*^ currently offered every other year*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT**  
[COVENANTDAY.ORG/CURRICULUM](http://COVENANTDAY.ORG/CURRICULUM)

## HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

### ARTS

Art I-II (9-12)  
 Art III - Honors (10-12)  
 Studio Art - AP (11-12)  
 Choir (9-12)  
 Digital Storytelling (9-12)  
 Symphonic Band (9-12)  
 Theater I (9-12)  
 Audition Theater - Honors (10-12)  
 Digital Photography (10-12)  
 Worship Leadership (9-12)

### MATH, SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

High school science, social studies, and math courses beyond the required minimum credits are offered as electives.

### PRACTICUMS

Intro to Engineering (9-12)  
 Restore 525 (10-12)\*  
 Individual Research Project (11-12)\*  
 ContainIt (10-12)\*

### ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

Strength & Fitness Training (9-12)  
 Peer Tutoring (9-12)  
 Yearbook (9-12)\*

*\*Select electives may require an application or guidance approval*