

Berean Middle School Curriculum Guide

6th GRADE

Ancient Civilizations

Ancient Civilizations is an introductory course in the discipline of social studies by looking at ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, Persia, Greece, Rome, and Africa. By looking at the geography and artifacts of these civilizations, students will learn to understand the common interests and failures of mankind.

Primary Text: *Heritage Studies: 3rd ed.* BJU (2012).

Bible

The primary goal of this course is to make the Word of God more meaningful to the lives of students, to help students use God's Word to come to know God through His Word, and to help students learn how God's Word applies to their everyday lives.

Primary Text: *Winning the Race, 4th ed.* Positive Action Bible (2020).

Grammar

This class introduces and teaches the basic principles of grammar, including parts of speech and punctuation, and the basics of various kinds of writing, including a personal narrative, a newspaper editorial, a compare-contrast essay, and limerick and free-verse poetry. We also learn vocabulary from Latin and Greek roots, regarding a variety of topics. In the third quarter of the school year, students write a biographical research paper through which they will learn and practice the writing process.

Primary Text: *English 6: Writing & Grammar, 2nd ed.* BJU (2012).
Growing Your Vocabulary. BJU (2008).

Literature

In this class students will broaden their knowledge of language and vocabulary, understand the perspectives of others who are different from them, and develop critical thinking skills and form their own opinions about the world around them. These goals will be accomplished through the reading, discussion and assessment of one autobiography; learning basic literary devices and how to use them in writing; and comparing and contrasting multiple short stories and the world views they display.

Primary Text: *Reading 6: Worktext, 2nd ed.* BJU (2003).

Math Course 1

Course 1 dives into number concepts and operations, algebra, geometry, reasoning, and problem solving. Instruction includes teacher directed, small group, and project-based learning. Placement in Math Course 1 is based on end of course or placement testing at the end of the 5th grade year as well as teacher recommendation.

Primary Text: *Math Connections Course 1.* Glencoe McGraw-Hill (2008).

Math Course 2

Course 2 includes an in-depth look at number concepts and operations, algebra, geometry, reasoning, and problem solving. Instruction includes teacher directed, small group, and project-based learning. Placement in Math Course 2 is based on end of course or placement testing at the end of the 5th grade year as well as teacher recommendation.

Primary Text: *Math Connections Course 2.* Glencoe McGraw-Hill (2008).

Science 6

Science 6 is a great introduction to exploring the details of the world through investigation. Students will be studying many different topics this year including earthquakes, volcanoes, cells, and plant and animal classifications.

Primary Text: *Science 6, 4th ed.* BJU (2013).

7th GRADE

Bible

This class provides an overview of every book of the Bible. Beginning with Genesis and progressing through Revelation, students will see God's character, provision, and grace toward His people.

Primary Text: *Route 66. Positive Action Bible (2013).*

Grammar

This class introduces and teaches the basic principles of grammar, including parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization, and the spelling of troublesome words. Students will develop their writing skills by incorporating various grammar rules in pieces of creative writing. Students also learn vocabulary from Latin and Greek roots, regarding a variety of topics.

Primary Text: *Vocabulary from Greek & Latin, VII. Prestwick (2003).*

English 7: Writing & Grammar, 4th ed. BJU (2012).

Literature

In this class, students will continue developing their critical thinking skills, expand their use of language, analyze various types of literature, and evolve and elevate their writing skills. These goals will be accomplished through the reading and assessment of two novels, comparing/contrasting a selection of short stories, the study and creation of multiple types of poetry, planning and creation of a research paper, the writing of an original short story, and reading and researching the American Revolution for the purpose of creating a photo essay project.

Primary Text: *Reading 7: Worktext, 2nd ed. BJU (2003).*

Hope Was Here.

Wednesday Wars

Life Science

Life Science is an introduction and overview of the living things God has made. Throughout the year, students will learn the foundations of life science, heredity and the origin of life, concepts in microbiology and plant biology, the animal kingdom, and the complex design of the human body.

Primary Text(s): *BJU Life Science Textbook, 5th ed. BJU (2019).*

BJU Life Science Lab Manual, 5th ed. BJU (2019).

Math 7

Math 7 expands on the concepts of operations, algebra, geometry, reasoning, and problem solving covered in Math Course 1. Instruction includes teacher directed, small group, and project-based learning.

Primary Text: *Math Connections Course 2. Glencoe McGraw-Hill (2008).*

Pre-Algebra

In this course, students will develop mathematical foundations with rational number and equations and improve skills when solving proportions and similarities. Students will distinguish between linear and nonlinear functions and begin to identify two and three-dimensional space. The course will conclude with a brief introduction to statistics and probability.

Primary Text: *Pre-Algebra. Glencoe (2012).*

U.S. Geography

In this course, students learn basic skills for reading maps, locating places, and evaluating the human and nonhuman features of geography. This course allows students to see the way the landscape and culture of North America changed over time, following the chronology of Native American habitation, European Exploration, the original 13 Colonies, Westward Expansion, and the United States today.

8th GRADE

Algebra

In this course, students build upon prior knowledge by identifying relationships between quantities, linear functions, and inequalities. Students expand their knowledge of exponents and exponential and quadratic functions, expressions, and equations. The course concludes with the development of knowledge in statistics and probability.

Primary Text: *Algebra*. McGraw Hill (2014).

Bible (8th Grade Girls)

Through a concentrated study of Scripture, and the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives, students in this class will endeavor to become young ladies who are pursuing the heart of God. In studying Christ in the Gospels, students will get to know Him in a deeper more personal way. By examining how He has created each individual uniquely and by recognizing personal identity in Christ, students can find their purpose and security in who He created them to be. Each student will be encouraged to develop a personal walk with the Lord, hide Scripture in her heart, and serve others as she does this.

Primary Text: *The God-Man: Christ in the Gospels*. Positive Action Bible (2016).

Stomping Out the Darkness. Bethany House (1993). and *NIV Bible*

Bible (8th Grade Boys)

The primary goal of this course is to explore the identity and purpose of God's Son, as revealed through His earthly ministry by concentrating on Christ's work from His preexistence to His ascension. Personal daily Bible readings encourage the application of God's Word into daily activity. Intentional service projects also serve to help realize the truths of Christ as a servant.

Primary Text: *The God-Man: Christ in the Gospels*. Positive Action Bible (2016). and *NIV Bible*

Earth Science

Earth Science is an expanding study that moves from the Earth's lithosphere to the rest of the universe. Students build their critical thinking skills as they study the major theories in earth science and follow those theories through to their conclusions. Throughout the course, they are guided by biblical and scientific principles, ultimately coming to a better understanding of their Creator and a greater appreciation of His creation.

Primary Text: *BJU Earth Science, 5th ed.* BJU (2018).

Literature

This class will expose students to a variety of genres of literature, including modern fiction, mystery, folk tales, plays, and historical fiction. Through this reading, students will be taught to identify and evaluate the worldviews of others as well as assess their own worldviews. Students will develop their verbal and written communication skills through class discussion of the literature and through evaluative and research writing projects. Students' creative writing skills will grow as they produce their own versions of fairy tales, plays, and mystery stories.

Primary Text: *Westing Game, Tangerine, and Fever 1793*.

Pre-Algebra

In this course, students will develop mathematical foundations with rational number and equations and improve skills when solving proportions and similarities. Students will distinguish between linear and nonlinear functions and begin to identify two and three-dimensional space. The course will conclude with a brief introduction to statistics and probability.

Primary Text: *Pre-Algebra*. Glencoe (2012).

Writing

Grammar is an important part of learning to be an improved writer. This class will review the basic principles of grammar, including parts of speech and punctuation, and the basics of various kinds of writing. Students will be expected to implement the rules and lessons we discuss in class into their own writing, and will have practice in both writing and editing their own expository, narrative and descriptive essays, as well as expanding their abilities in annotation, research, and technology.

U.S. History

In this course, students read, analyze, and interpret the historical context of The United States of America from pre-Colonial times through the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War. By reading and evaluating primary and secondary sources from this time period, students develop critical thinking skills to interpret and apply historical events to their modern cultural and political contexts.

Primary Text: *Middle Grades American History: Beginning Through Reconstruction*. Pearson Education, Inc. (2016).

SPECIAL AREAS

Art

This class will introduce students to multidisciplinary art making in the middle school setting. Students will develop art vocabulary and language skills while problem solving through creative processes. Students will begin to investigate various media, developing and improving skills in drawing, painting, mixed media, and sculpture.

Music

In middle school music, students will be learning music theory, digital music (GarageBand), vocal techniques, and the basics of guitar, piano, and percussion. The difficulty level will grow with each year. The goal is to prepare students to read music and for students to be exposed to various instruments.

Physical Education

This course teaches the importance of healthy living, explores various team sports, and highlights the need to consider other sports offered at Berean. The course also adds a flavor of international sports which creates an interesting world view for Berean students. In all that we do we look to glorify Christ with our efforts.

Technology

In this 9-week class, students will divide their time between learning typing skills/word processing, digital citizenship, and learning the basics of operating Google Suite programs.