



# Eighth Grade Curriculum Overview

*CCA middle school utilizes curriculum from the Summit Learning Platform. All content is consistent with Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Math, State Standards in History/Social Studies and Next Generation Science Standards.*

## **Bible Study**

Students in grades 8 study Proverbs through the use of Positive Action's Bible Curriculum called *Wise Up: Wisdom in Proverbs*. Because remembering scripture is important to grow in faith, students memorize 12-15 significant scripture verses during the year. These verses are revisited regularly so that students will remember them at year's end. Bible study time also involves discussions/activities based on the Christian values being taught school-wide, e.g. patience, self-control, etc., as well as review/study of important New and Old Testament stories and how they reveal God's promises. Time is also spent discussing various issues, often raised by students, and determining how God would have us live as Christians.

## **Reading/Language Arts/Writing**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade literature program involves the exploration of literary concepts such as character and plot development, and elements, theme, etc., through the use of age-appropriate novels such as *The Westing Game*, *The Call of the Wild*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Grammar and writing concepts are taught through the use of the Summit Platform. Students develop skills in creative and essay writing, as well as mastering the steps in completing research papers/projects.

## **Math 8 or Algebra I**

Students learn through the inquiry method, beginning with what they know already and building upon that knowledge. Students are encouraged to focus on the process of finding the answer rather than just the answer itself. Summit's use of Illustrative Mathematics' problem-solving based curriculum guides students toward thinking critically in order to comprehend math concepts. Core content covers Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, Statistics and Probability, and the Number System. Students placed in Algebra I have demonstrated a high aptitude for math in their classwork and have also completed Math 8 as 7<sup>th</sup> graders. This class satisfies the Algebra I requirement for high school math.

## **Integrated Science**

Integrated science includes investigations in both physical science and earth science. Units include genetics, environmental science, forces, solar energy, and scale visualizations. Through hands-on labs and their coinciding data collection and analysis, students gain familiarity with the scientific method and the use of inquiry to create and test hypotheses. They then present their findings to their peers.

## **Social Studies**

The social studies curriculum focuses on the concept of historical thinking. Students study U.S. History through primary source documentation and exploring multiple perspectives to gain a better understanding of our country's founding and current place in the world. Units include a Constitutional Convention, Civil War simulation, and ends with a Capstone project focusing on an era of his or her choice.

## **Additional Learning Experiences**

- Physical Education: twice weekly classes
- Electives: Band, Marimbas, Choir, Classics, Drama, and Art
- Mentoring opportunities in chapel and math with primary grades students
- Weekly Chapel/ Service Opportunities
- Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, Basketball, and Track
- National Geographic Society Geography Bee
- Annual Lutheran Elementary School Tournament