



Trinity Presbyterian School Middle School Course Guide 2022-2023

Mission: To glorify God by providing for students the highest quality college-preparatory education, training them in the Biblical world and life view, thus enabling them to serve God in spirit, mind, and body.

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Curriculum Philosophy

Overview

The word curriculum refers to a course of study, either what is studied in an individual course or what is studied over one's entire school career. The curriculum of any given school includes both subject matter as well as instruction and instructional resources. At Trinity Presbyterian School, our curriculum focuses on two complementary goals: providing the highest quality college preparatory education and framing that education within a Biblical world and life view. Each year, as a student progresses from one grade to the next, the curriculum builds on itself, becoming progressively more challenging and reflecting the richness of the world around us. We work diligently on creating a seamless transition from one grade level to the next with the purpose of equipping our young people with the ability to engage with the wider world beyond them as they move on to college and their chosen career.

Biblical World and Life View

Christian education has a long and noble lineage both in Europe and the United States. Christian educators emphasize being able to read and think for oneself from a Biblical world and life view so that one can interact intelligently with both the Christian and non-Christian world. In an increasingly secular world, Trinity believes it is important to equip students with the necessary intellectual tools to engage with the world around them, understand others' points of view, and defend their own. In order to do this well, students receive a broad liberal arts education at Trinity that focuses on mind, body, and spirit.

College Preparatory Education

The world is undergoing change at an unprecedented rate due in large part to both technological improvements and increasing globalization. Preparing students for college and career has never been more important or more challenging. Since we assume that our students will go on to 4-year colleges, our graduation requirements reflect current college admission criteria. A range of course offerings from standard college preparatory courses to Advanced Placement courses prepare all our students for the college of their choice. An emphasis on reading comprehension, critical analysis, effective oral and written communication, and problem solving provide the necessary skills needed for our students to thrive in a college setting and in the work force. We diligently study the latest trends in higher education and make necessary changes to our curriculum as needed while still maintaining our core beliefs.

Upper School Overview

Trinity's Middle School includes grades six, seven, and eight and focuses on the transition from lower school to secondary school as well as from childhood to young adulthood. The school year consists of four nine-week grading periods, comprising two semesters. The core curriculum is supplemented with specialized instruction in Bible, computer science, the fine arts, physical education, public speaking, French, and Spanish.

Students may request changes in their schedule during the first two full weeks of each semester (drop or add a course). Requests are considered on an individual basis.

The GPA for grades 6, 7 and 8 is based on that single year only. Students who do not maintain a 2.5 average after the completion of grades 6, 7, 8 or 9 will be placed on probation for the following school year. Students must have a 2.5 at the end of the probationary school year in order to return to Trinity the following school year. **No student may be on probation more than once in grades 7-10.** Any student who leaves Trinity because of the 2.5 policy may be allowed to return to Trinity if he or she meets the transfer student requirements (see below).

Any 6th, 7th or 8th grade student who fails three semester courses may not remain at Trinity. Failed courses must be taken and passed in an accredited program approved by the Head of School. The summer school grade will not replace the failing grade and will not be included in the student's GPA.

All students transferring into the Middle School must earn and maintain a 2.5 GPA. All transfer grades will be recorded using Trinity course weights. **Any transfer student who is suspended during his/her first year may forfeit the right to return the following year.**

Middle School Course Requirements

3 units - English
 3 units - Mathematics
 3 units - Social Studies
 3 units - Science
 3 units - Physical Education*
 3 units - Electives
 1.5 units - Christian Studies
 0.5 unit - Essential Computer Skills
 0.5 unit - Public Speaking
 0.5 unit - 8th Grade Foreign Language Rotation (French, Spanish)

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Christian Studies 6 <i>1 semester</i>	Christian Studies 7 <i>1 semester</i>	Christian Studies 8 <i>1 semester</i>
English 6	English 7	English 8
Mathematics 6	Mathematics 7 or Accelerated Math 7	Pre-Algebra 8 or Accelerated Algebra 8
Earth Science	Life Science	Integrated Science
Geography	Civics and Economics	U.S. History to 1877
Essential Computer Skills <i>1 semester</i>	Public Speaking <i>1 semester</i>	Foreign Language Rotation <i>1 semester (French & Spanish)</i>
Physical Education <i>(or equivalent*)</i>	Physical Education <i>(or equivalent*)</i>	Physical Education <i>(or equivalent*)</i>
Elective	Elective	Elective

* Physical Education units may be earned through participation in Physical Education, Athletics (7th & 8th Grade only), Band, Wildcat Twirlers (7th & 8th Grade only) or Dance

Grading Scale

Trinity Presbyterian School's grading scale is as follows:

Letter Grade Equivalency	Numerical Grade	Quality Points
A	90-100*	4
B	80-89	3
C	70-79	2
D	64-69	1
F	0-64	0

* Semester numerical averages cannot be above 100 points.

CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Middle School students are required to complete one semester each year.

Students are required to have his/her own Bible.

Christian Studies 6 : 1 Semester (required)

This course is paired with Essential Computer Skills

Christian Studies 6 focuses on Christ. Students will study Christ as he revealed in the Old Testament, His life in the New Testament, and explore how historical evidence validates the claims about Christ in both Testaments. This course will use the Bible, as well as Strobel's *The Case for Christ for Kids*, as students examine how Jesus' life and teachings relate to their own.

Christian Studies 7 : 1 Semester (required)

Christian Studies 7 focuses on the Old Testament, using the Bible as the main text. The primary goal of this course is to see God's unfolding revelation of Himself and His plan of salvation as told to us in the Old Testament. Students will continue to gain a familiarity with the Old Testament, the different genres that are used in the writing on the Old Testament, and increase their understanding of how to properly read the Old Testament. Students will also be challenged to discover what it means to walk with God personally.

Christian Studies 8 : 1 Semester (required)

Christian Studies 8 focuses on the advancement of God's kingdom through the establishment of His Church. Church History will be explored, beginning with the book of Acts and Paul's letters, continuing to the present day universal church. Students will explore how the Canon of Scripture was established, important doctrines of Protestantism, denominational differences will be explored, and students' personal role in Christ's church will be determined. This course will also discuss sexuality and how the Christian should properly relate to all the choices that come with this gift God has given His people (Abstinence).

ELECTIVES

INNOVATIVE SCIENCES

Essential Computer Skills : 1 Semester (Grade 6 - Required)

Essential Computer Skills is designed to strengthen keyboarding, word processing, presentation, and a variety of essential content. This course builds upon previous knowledge in preparation to refine computer skills and digital citizenship.

Makerspace Engineering I : 1 Semester (Grade 6-8)

Makerspace Engineering I is designed to be a *STEAM* (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) class providing students with an introduction to the Engineering Design Process.

Working either collaboratively or independently, students will gain valuable “hands on” experience building both pre-designed and self-designed projects. A student's creativity, critical thinking, and perseverance will be challenged as DIY meets education!

There is a \$20 fee for this class. This class will be limited to 15 students each semester.

Makerspace Engineering II - Digital Making : 1 Semester (Grades 6-8)

Makerspace Engineering II is designed to be a *STEAM* (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) class providing students with an introduction to the Engineering Design Process.

Working either collaboratively or independently, students will gain valuable experience using design tools to build both pre-designed and self-designed projects. A student's creativity, critical thinking, and perseverance will be challenged as DIY meets education!

There is a \$20 fee for this class. This class will be limited to 15 students each semester.

Introduction to Robotics and Coding : 1 semester (Grades 6-8)

Intro to Robotics and Coding introduces the student to basic programming by using a version of MIT's Scratch program. Students also learn problem-solving strategies through the use of LEGO robotics which also promotes teamwork.

There is a class fee of \$15 for materials. This class will be limited to 15 students.

FINE ARTS

Wildcat Twirlers : Fall Semester only (Grades 7-12)

Requirements : Audition and Department Approval

The Wildcat Twirlers are general members of the Wildcat Pride Marching Band who specialize in the majorette and color guard arts. The Wildcat Twirlers are held to the same standards, expectations, and representation of instrumentalists in the band program. All Wildcat Twirlers must attend the Spring Color Guard Clinic in April/May at Trinity Presbyterian School and a majorette summer camp to be decided by the Twirler Sponsor. *Students will be responsible for the purchase of uniforms, accessories and equipment as applicable.* There will be a 2-day clinic this spring: Dates/Tryouts TBA

Summer rehearsals, as well as before and after school rehearsals, are mandatory.

DANCE

Dance Ensemble I : Full Year (Grades 6-12)

Requirements : Audition and Director Approval

Dance Ensemble I is designed to offer the student a ballet-based technique. This class will offer the student knowledge of ballet, preparing them with pre-pointe work, jazz, hip-hop, modern dance, dance history, stage etiquette, and ballet terminology. Trinity Dance Ensemble I is designed for the performer and will give these dancers a basic foundation of the many different styles of dance offered at Trinity. *There is a \$100 class fee for costume rental and cleaning. Students purchase tights, leotards, shoes and skirts as specified by Director.*

Dance Ensemble II : Full Year (Grades 6-12)

Requirements : Audition and Director Approval

Dance Ensemble II is designed to offer the student a ballet-based technique to continue to expand upon the development of the dancer. This class will deepen the student's knowledge of ballet, preparing them with pointe work, jazz, hip-hop, modern dance, dance history, stage etiquette, and ballet terminology. Trinity Dance Ensemble II is designed for the performer and will give these dancers a deeper foundation of dance while focusing on the use of epaulement in their technique and stage presence. *There is a \$100 class fee for costume rental and cleaning. Students purchase tights, leotards, shoes and skirts as specified by Director.*

Dance Ensemble III : Full Year (Grades 6-12)

Requirements : Audition and Director Approval

Dance Ensemble III is designed to offer the student a ballet-based technique to begin the development of a more serious dancer. This class will continue to offer the student knowledge of ballet, preparing them with pointe work, jazz, hip-hop, modern dance, dance history, stage etiquette, and ballet terminology. Trinity Dance Ensemble III is designed for the performer and will give these dancers a deeper understanding of dance as an artist. They will begin to look at Choreography, and what goes into this creative process. *There is a \$100 class fee for costume rental and cleaning. Students purchase tights, leotards, shoes and skirts as specified by Director.*

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Beginning Band : (Grades 6-8)

Beginning Band is designed for the student with little to no prior band instrument experience. Through this class, students will, with Director's help and encouragement, choose an appropriate instrument to purchase for themselves or rent from the band program (renting option limited by instrument and demand). Students will develop skills in reading music, understanding the structure of major and minor scales, the execution of proper breathing and articulation on their instrument, and basic music composition. Daily home practice is expected of every student, to develop the successful habits and basic skills of a musician. Public performance opportunities for this class will come primarily from performances at the Christmas and spring concerts, and the Solo & Ensemble festival in May. Beginning Band is a pre-requisite to participation in all other aspects of the band program.

Marching/Symphonic Band : Full Year (Grades 7-12)

Prerequisites: Prior Band Experience & Director Approval (audition required for 7 & 8 graders)

Symphonic Band is a full-year course, with an emphasis on Marching Band in the fall semester after school. The class provides instrumental students the opportunity to develop, expand, and challenge their individual skill level. This is done through performing concerts and competitions on a varied array of concert band literature. Marching Band is one of the most visible performing groups at Trinity, providing halftime entertainment, support, and spirit at football games. In addition, the band takes pride in participating in competitions across the Southeastern United States and performing at various community and civic events.

Summer rehearsals, as well as before and after school rehearsals, are mandatory.

Symphonic Band and Marching Band perform music at the high school level. Students in grades 7 and 8 are eligible to audition for acceptance into each ensemble if they have displayed admirable work ethic and dedication to their musicianship.

Guitar I - Beginning Guitar : 1 Semester (Grades 6-12)

Guitar is designed to give students the opportunity to learn guitar with little or no prior musical experience. Students will learn and develop the basics of playing the instrument, different musical styles, how to read music, and how to perform. Students may purchase their own instrument or instruments may be issued from the band program (issuing option limited by instrument and demand). Performance opportunities for this class will come primarily from performances at the Christmas and Spring Concerts, Solo and Ensemble in May, and festivals.

Guitar II - Intermediate Guitar : 1 Semester (Grades 6-12)

Intermediate Guitar is designed to further the skill of playing the guitar. This course is open to students who have some experience with the guitar. Performance opportunities for this class will come primarily from performances at the Christmas and Spring Concerts, Solo and Ensemble in May, and festivals.

Music Production and Technology: (Grades 6-8)

Music Production and Technology will teach students how to create music videos, shoot and edit promotional videos, learn about audio and video mechanics, create electronic music, mix live audio, produce music, and learn how to work with copyright laws. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to:

- Mix live audio for various events
- Create music using MIDI keyboards and music software
- Develop entry level piano proficiency
- Learn basic music composition techniques
- Learn how to operate studio equipment

Music Production and Technology will give students a taste of the music production field as a possible career and allow students to get a head start in the field.

VOCAL

Middle School Concert Choir : 1 Semester or Full Year (Grades 6-8)

Middle School Concert Choir addresses the musical interests of young singers who are eager to explore Classical to Contemporary vocal repertoire. Two annual school concerts include the Fine Arts Department Christmas show *Twas the Night* and the Spring Choral Performance. Students are provided opportunities throughout the year to sing for community events, social gatherings and school functions. Students participate in Middle School All-State Choir and State Choral Assessment. Classroom instruction from a biblical worldview provides support for growth in emotional, social, spiritual and academic independence. From the beginning vocalist to the experienced choir member, students are nurtured in sight singing, music theory and vocal technique. *There is a class fee of \$100 for concert attire for new members. This includes formal dresses and tuxes. Girls will own their dress and take it with them as they age out of Middle School Choir. They may also wish to sell to an upcoming student. Returning choir members will be assessed a class fee of \$35.00.*

THEATRE

Intro the Theatre : 1 Semester or Full Year (Grades 6-8)

VISUAL ARTS

Drawing and Design: 1 Semester (Grades 6-8)

Drawing will introduce students to traditional drawing and design techniques and concepts. Formal aspects of art-making and fundamental instruction on the elements and principles of art will be applied to create art in a variety of drawing media. Seeing and drawing skills will develop as students work with volume and space, linear perspective, mark making, and value. Students will further develop skills using various materials, methods and approaches in creating works of art and design. Students will learn how to critically analyze how their works of art align with project criteria. Activities will be individualized and collaborative. *There is a \$25 fee for this class.*

Mixed Media : 1 Semester (Grades 6-8)

Mixed Media allows students the opportunity to create work that combines traditional, and non-traditional visual art media, combining these in the same physical artwork (ordinary objects that can be transformed into creative works of art).. This course is designed to give students a wide variety of art making experiences and allows students to continue to explore various visual art forms and techniques through the elements and principles of art and design. Students will produce original artworks and learn skills and techniques associated with a variety of art media. Students will also learn to critically analyze how their works of art align with project criteria. *There is a \$25 fee for this class.*

3D Design : 1 Semester (Grades 6-8)

Three-Dimensional (3D) Design introduces students to the fundamental context of sculpture and three-dimensional design. The course introduces students to basic techniques, concepts, and materials found in the sculptural arts. Students will investigate 3D design from art history to current works of art. Creativity, problem solving and technical design solutions will be explored through projects that are both traditional and non-traditional in nature. Formal aspects of art-making and fundamental instruction on the elements and principles of art will be used to create works of art. Students will critically analyze how their works of art align with project criteria. *There is a \$25 fee for this class.*

Animation : 1 Semester (Grades 6-8)

Animation allows students the opportunity to improve skills in the art form of animation, merging the arts of illustration, sculpture, filmmaking, design and technology. Using various methods of story telling, students will experiment with hand-drawn, computer, and stop motion techniques. Students will work on projects individually and collaboratively. Students will study the history of animation to current day works and career opportunities in the field of art. Students will critically analyze how their works of art align with project criteria. *There is a \$15 fee for this class.*

Visual Media : 1 Semester (Grades 6-8)

Visual Media is designed to allow students the opportunity to explore technology in relation to the visual arts and the history of art. Graphic design, basic animation, and collage will be explored, as well as apps and computer programs as they relate to design, expression and creating visual works of art. Students will critically analyze how their works of art align with project criteria.

There is a \$15 fee for this class.

LIFE SKILLS

Life Skills : 1 Semester (Grades 6-8)

Life Skills is designed to help prepare for future job opportunities and everyday life situations. The activities in this class will help build your professionalism, as well as equip each student with necessary life skills.

ENGLISH

The overall purpose of Trinity's English Language Arts instruction is to equip students to become strong readers, writers, and critical thinkers. Therefore, grammar, writing and vocabulary occur within both direct (i.e. bell ringers, mini-lessons, lectures followed by application, etc.) and integrated instruction. Trinity's use of a spiraling curriculum means that while components of ELA from previous years are similar, students will be expected to perform at greater levels of sophistication. Becoming a sophisticated academic reader across multiple genres and contexts requires regular, daily practice on the part of every student. Therefore, in addition to formal literature instruction, middle level students also engage in independent interest-based reading through the AR program. In addition, they are encouraged to read any fiction or non-fiction text of their choosing for at least a half of an hour throughout the year, including the summer months.

English 6 : (Required)

English 6 builds a foundation in grammar for the purpose of transferring it to personal and academic writing. Paragraph structure, essays, narratives and creative writing complement literary studies. Literature study includes reading challenging novels, short stories, poetry, nonfiction, science fiction and fantasy stories. In addition to formal literature and vocabulary instruction, students engage in independent, interest-based reading through the AR program (approximately one novel per nine weeks), which not only aids students in developing their own reading tastes, but also increases their reading comprehension, fluency and vocabulary skills.

*It is important to note that as students leave lower school, reading tasks become more complex. In terms of independent reading, this means that English 6 and 7 instructors must balance the number of AR books students are required to read with what is being read in formal literature instruction and with novels students are sometimes assigned in other core classes.

English 7 : (Required)

Trinity's use of a spiraling curriculum means that while components of ELA from the previous year are similar, students will be expected to perform at greater levels of sophistication. English 7 builds a foundation in grammar for the purpose of transferring it to personal and academic writing. Essays, descriptive writing, creative writing, and vocabulary building complement literary studies. Literature study includes the reading, interpretation, and discussion of short stories, drama, poetry, non-fiction and mythology. Students also read at least one novel (or larger work) per nine weeks. In addition to formal literature and vocabulary instruction, students engage in independent, interest-based reading through the AR program, which not only aids students in developing their own reading tastes, but also increases their reading comprehension, fluency and vocabulary skills.

English 8 : (Required)

English 8 focuses on the integration of grammar, essay writing, and vocabulary building. Literature study includes reading, interpreting, and discussing short stories, drama, poetry, and non-fiction. In addition to formal literature and vocabulary instruction, students engage in independent, interest-based reading through the AR program, which not only aids students in

developing their own reading tastes, but also increases their reading comprehension, fluency and vocabulary skills. Trinity's use of a spiraling curriculum means that while components of ELA from the previous year are similar, students will be expected to read much more advanced literature and to respond to that literature with stronger, interpretive writing.

EIGHTH GRADE FOREIGN LANGUAGE ROTATION

French - 9 weeks

Spanish - 9 weeks

The Eighth Grade Foreign Language Rotation is taught in the fall semester and is required of all students. This course introduces students to the languages taught in Upper School which will enable them with to make an informed choice when selecting which foreign language to study in high school.

In each language the students learn basic pronunciation skills, initial vocabulary, basic grammar, and culture. At the end of the semester the grades for each rotation average equally for the semester grade. There is no semester exam for the rotation class.

This is an academic course designed to prepare students for high school, where foreign language classes are core courses.

MATHEMATICS

Note: A student failing to meet the required average for a specific course will be advised accordingly as to the best course option moving forward. A student failing to meet the minimum average may have the option of completing a course supplemental program over the summer. Upon completion of the supplemental program, the student must demonstrate content/skill mastery as designated by the department on a comprehensive assessment at a specified time. This assessment will be given prior to the beginning of school.

Mathematics 6 : (Required)

Math 6 allows students to build upon prior knowledge of whole number operations, study decimal operations, fraction operations, and integers. Pre-Algebra concepts are introduced with students studying how to evaluate one- and two-step equations. Additional content includes measurements, percent, ratio, proportion, graphing data, and measures of central tendency. The study of geometry content includes length, perimeter, circumference, and area. The course will strengthen students' ability to think, use academic vocabulary, problem solve, and think critically. Students entering Math 6 are expected to have a strong understanding of basic math facts and number sense.

Mathematics 7 : (Required)

Mathematics 7 provides a connection from general math to algebra and geometry. The course begins with a review of the basic operations of arithmetic on whole numbers, fractions and decimals. This foundation leads them into the study of algebra and the appropriate use of academic vocabulary. This course of study will include simplifying expressions, solving equations and inequalities involving integers, whole numbers and rational numbers. Emphasis is placed on the repeated and extensive use of fractions and negative numbers. Probability, ratio, proportion, and percent will be studied in detail, along with basic geometry. Students will investigate and explore mathematical ideas to analyze and solve complex problems.

Accelerated Mathematics 7 **

Prerequisites:

- *Placement will be determined in the spring semester of a student's 6th grade year. A variety of markers, including an Algebra placement assessment, pre-existing test data, and current grades will be used to determine this placement.*
- *Department approval*

The Accelerated Mathematics 7 is a compacted course, which means that all of the content of Mathematics 7 and more than half the content of Mathematics 8 are compressed into this single course. Therefore, the curriculum moves at an accelerated pace. The students will engage in a rigorous study of operations using rational and irrational numbers, linear equations, inequalities, systems of linear equations, linear relationships, ratios, rates, proportions, percent, random sampling, data distributions, real-world applications of area and circumference of two-dimensional figures, and surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures. The Accelerated Mathematics 7 course will prepare students for the redesigned and more rigorous Accelerated Algebra 1 course in grade 8. This course will require 30- 45 minutes of homework, nightly, including weekends.

Transition to Algebra 8

Transition to Algebra 8 provides students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the basic algebra concepts before moving on to Algebra I, the foundation for all future math courses. This course will strengthen fraction, decimal, and integer skills. Students will be introduced to basic algebra concepts including multi-step equations, linear equations, slope, and graphing. Mastery of these concepts is essential for success in future math courses.

Accelerated Algebra I - 8th **

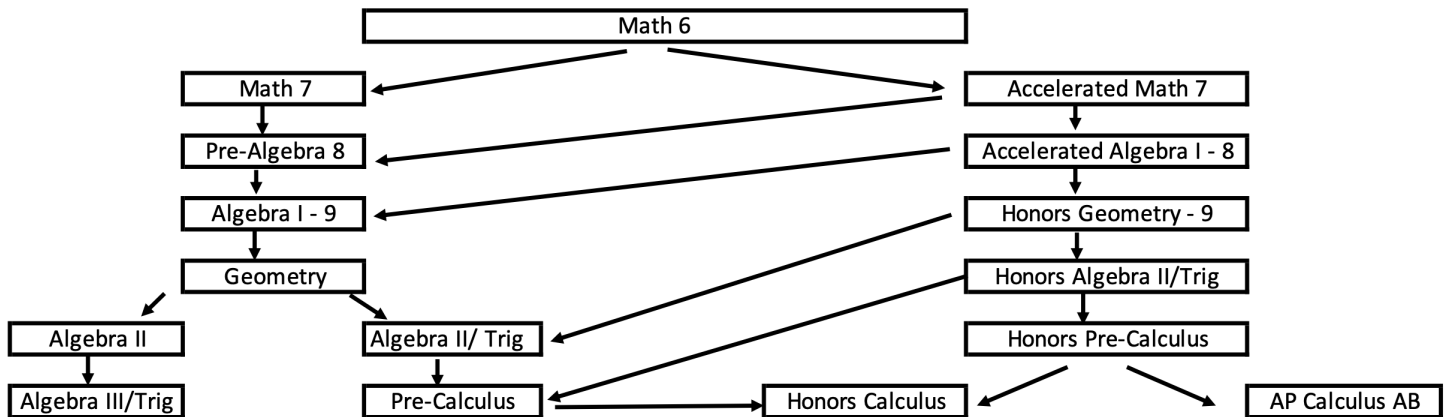
Prerequisites:

- *Placement will be determined in the spring semester of a student's 7th grade year. A variety of markers, including an Algebra placement assessment, pre-existing test data, and current grades will be used to determine this placement.*
- *This course requires abstract application of math concepts: it is imperative that students master proper calculations of decimals, fractions, and integers prior to enrolling in this course. Mastery of proportions, ratios, evaluating expressions and solving equations is essential for success in this course. Students must be intrinsically motivated to accept challenges and have a strong desire to learn.*
- *Department approval*

Accelerated Algebra I - 8th is a preparatory course for college-bound students designed to provide enhanced mastery in the basics of algebra and the skills needed to succeed in upper level math courses. This course emphasizes the real number system, graphing, polynomials, factoring, linear equations, systems of linear equations, and solving inequalities. Accelerated Algebra I – 8 accentuates the process of problem solving and critical thinking through the application of algebra concepts to real world situations.

*****Accelerated Math 7 and Accelerated Algebra I – 8th are pivotal courses in math education and the foundation for all future math classes. Students taking Accelerated Math 7 or Accelerated Algebra I must have at least an 85% average for the year, with no lower than an 85% average for second semester. Accelerated Math 7 students not meeting the minimum 85% average will be required to take Transition to Algebra in the eighth grade. Accelerated Algebra I students not meeting the minimum 85% average for second semester will be required to take Algebra I in ninth grade.***

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL MATHEMATICS COURSES



Honors courses are listed on the right-hand side of this chart. In the event a student is unable to maintain the Honors requirements, the arrows to the left column indicate options for the next year. Eleventh grade students completing Pre-Calculus will proceed to Honors Calculus, as indicated by the arrow.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education: Required (Grades 6-8)

Physical Education students will participate in a variety of health-enhancing activities that allow the early adolescent to experience positive, challenging, and enjoyable physical activity while learning about its benefits and importance.

Students are expected to perform skills and/or a combination of skills in a group setting on a field, in a gym, or in a weight room. These experiences provide the students with a positive outlet for competition with peers and a means of gaining the respect and recognition of others. Physical Education should provide confidence as students take steps towards independence and maintaining healthy lifestyles. Participation in the physical education program occurs in a safe and inclusive learning environment where students are able to work with others to achieve a common goal.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

1 Semester : Required (Grade 7)

Public Speaking is an introduction course to communications, oratory, and debate.

Students participate in writing original speeches using the informative and persuasive genres, perform impromptu speeches, and debate in a variety of formats. This course allows the students to experience the research process as they utilize basic MLA formatting procedures.

SCIENCE

Earth Science 6 : (Required)

Earth Science involves an in-depth study of Earth as well as stars and other galaxies. The course involves critical thinking, laboratory activities, group discussions and collaborative learning. The Biblical worldview is taught through a purposeful exploration of the Scriptures that applies to God's Creation. Content includes the methods of science, mapping the Earth, the overall structure of the Earth, minerals and rocks, Earth's atmosphere, Earth's climate, as well as earthquakes and volcanoes. Students study the stars and galaxies prior to a three-day trip to the United States Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Life Science 7 : (Required)

Life Science overviews the characteristics of living things. There is an emphasis on gaining an appreciation for the beauty and diversity of God's living creation. Life science includes the study of classification, cell structure and function, the human body and a survey of organisms ranging from bacteria to mammals. Students are given opportunities to use the scientific method as well as direct observation and study to solve problems and gain understanding of life on Earth. Through laboratory activities, students develop skills in the areas of slide preparation and microscope use, dissection, and experimental design. Students apply computer skills as they conduct scientific research and prepare presentations. Field studies allow students to utilize research skills outdoors to make practical applications in a real-world setting. Scientific opportunities such as these, fosters the development and application of critical thinking and analytical skills.

Integrated Science 8 : (Required)

Integrated science curriculum incorporates three core ideas for engineering, technology, and the application of science. There is an emphasis placed on independent thinking as well as collaborative problem solving. Students learn scientific skills crucial for success in advanced science classes as they become actively engaged through experiences in experimental design, accurate measurement, laboratory equipment and its usage, and data interpretation. Students explore the properties of chemistry and physics while becoming proficient in scientific skills. The curriculum will be explored with hands-on labs and a creative use of project based learning.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography 6 : (Required)

The scope of World History I is pre-history to the Early Modern World. This course is a study of ancient civilizations, medieval societies, and their impact on later cultures, both eastern and western. The study of the Renaissance and the Reformation, coupled with the era leading to the Age of Exploration, brings the student to the dawn of the Modern Age.

Civics and Economics 7 : (Required)

Civics and Economics examines the roles citizens play in the political, governmental, and economic systems in the United States. Students examine the Constitution of the United States, identify the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens, and describe the structure and operation of government at the local, state, and national levels. Students investigate the process by which decisions are made and explain the government's role in the American market economy.

United States History to 1877 - 8 : (Required)

United States History covers events and issues from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to: exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, constitutional issues, nation building, Civil War, and Reconstruction.