



**Middle School Course Catalog
2023-2024**

Welcome to the Dayspring Christian Academy Middle School Course Catalog. Here you will find our course offerings in the various disciplines, which represent the rich and elevated curriculum commensurate with a Principle Approach® education. Dayspring Christian Academy is committed to continue to *excel still more* in every arena of our school. Our desire is to prepare our students to be lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ who are equipped to lead in their area of calling.

We believe that the middle school years are unique in the development of the child. The many changes they experience – physical, emotional, and spiritual – occur at an increasingly rapid pace. Students at this age still have a childlike curiosity about life and learning, while beginning to take on the more serious responsibilities associated with a productive and godly life.

As a faculty and staff, we value the opportunity you have given us to walk through these years with you. Our desire is to build solid relationships of trust with our students as they develop their own relationship with Christ and expand their understanding of His Word and its application to every area of life. The foundations of Christian character and worldview have already been laid in their young hearts and will now be built upon. Middle school is a launching station for high school and beyond, where skills are strengthened and advanced. May the Lord deepen and expand His presence in these young people as they grow toward maturity.

Sincerely,

Dan Stone, M.Ed.
Headmaster, Dayspring Christian Academy

“Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man.”
-- *Sir Francis Bacon, “Of Studies”*--

Grade Six

Bible

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY
FOUR QUARTERS

This course is an overview of the entire New Testament. It begins with a study of the intertestamental period and the empires from the Babylonian captivity to the rise of the Roman Empire. Students will identify the various influences that each empire had on the Hebrew culture. The course then focuses on the life of Christ and the meaning of the term “Gospel” as students move through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Students will then embark on a detailed study on the book of Acts as well as the rise of the early church and its spread of the Gospel message to the Gentile world. Finally, the course will conclude with a survey of the remaining epistles, the influence of church leaders such as Peter, Paul, John, Timothy, and Titus, and the issues faced by the early church.

English Literature

ENGLISH GRAMMAR, COMPOSITION, AND LITERATURE
FOUR QUARTERS

Students will understand literature as the *Handmaid of History* as they engage in reading assorted styles of writing such as an epistle, Philemon; autobiography, *Up from Slavery*; novella, *A Christmas Carol*; novel, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*; and various poems. Students will identify biblical principles throughout the reading of each piece and will discuss and identify various elements of literature such as setting, plot, style, character, and theme. Students will practice using MLA standards, parenthetical referencing, and note-taking skills and will be introduced to library data bases as they complete various research projects each quarter, including an oration at the end of the year. Students will complete a book commentary about a classic piece of literature. This course also includes instruction for writing expository, descriptive, and narrative paragraphs, three-paragraph expository and persuasive essays, and letters, and is supported by a formal study of grammar and vocabulary, with the goal of students communicating in a manner that glorifies God.

Geography

WESTERN HEMISPHERE
J-TERM (CURRICULUM IS ON A ROTATING BASIS WITH GRADES 7 AND 8)

This course is a study on the regional, economic, political, and social geography of North, South, and Central America. Students will begin by examining the biblical principles of Geography, particularly that God is responsible for the contour of the earth and controls His creation. Students will look at *God's Principle of Individuality* as they study the relationship of various cultures to the rest of the world as well as their role in His story. Student will demonstrate proficiency in the use of absolute location, map-reading skills, use of an atlas, geographic zones, and time zones, as well as in creating political and physical feature maps of North, South, and Central America.

History

AMERICA'S WESTWARD EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT
FOUR QUARTERS

This course focuses on the events that led up to the Civil War to the Reconstruction Period. Students will examine the biblical principle of *Union and Unity*. The United States was a union of states that struggled with sectional differences, which affected national unity. Students will analyze key causes of the Civil War and the attempts to restore national unity. The course progresses to the Civil War, with a study of the character and role of key individuals of this war and an especial focus on the Battle of Gettysburg. Each student will write a report on a key individual who fought at Gettysburg and will present it on the two-day camping field study at the end of the year. The course ends with a close look at the Reconstruction Period, when students will discuss the issues the nation faced in bringing healing to a divided nation. Students will look at the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, Lincoln's assassination, and rebuilding of the South. The overall focus of the course is on God's work through individuals, its relevance to students of every background, and the continuing of God's unfolding plan.

Field Study: Gettysburg (1 night)

Latin

FOUNDATIONS OF LATIN (6)
TWO QUARTERS

The ancient language, Latin, gives framework and foundation to modern languages. Sixth grade Latin students will be introduced to translations of the *Latin Bible Reader*, beginning with Chapter One: Creation Story. They will translate Chapter Two: Abraham and Isaac, after they set up Excel spread sheets for the translations. They will also learn to identify derivatives from the Chapter Vocabulary. They will be introduced to foundational aspects of Latin grammar, including the eight parts of speech and the conjugations of the verb *sum* (being). Students will learn *The Lord's Prayer* in Latin by heart. They also commit to memory John 1:1-4 in Latin, one verse at a time from September, October, November, December. The course-long project will be the designing, creating, and labeling of a villa, which students will present to the class while using Latin to describe it in detail.

Mathematics: Math 6

STANDARD COURSE OFFERING
FOUR QUARTERS

Typically, sixth grade students take the Math 2 course, where they will perform operations with fractions and decimals as well as develop an understanding of ratios and proportions, scale factor, slope, perimeter and area of various geometric figures, exponents, inequalities, unit conversions, percent, graphs, angles, and preliminary algebra. Students will be challenged to invest their God-given reasoning abilities to solve word problems that model real-life scenarios. Teaching methodologies will vary but will center around three-pronged hybrid instruction that includes small group teacher interaction, project and problem collaboration, and independent computer-based practice. Note: It is understood that students entering *Math 2* will be able to demonstrate automaticity with all four operations of math facts of 1 – 10.

Music

MUSIC APPRECIATION
TWO QUARTERS

Music Appreciation is a course designed to introduce students to music of various styles and time periods in order that they may distinguish between appreciating something of worth and personal preference. Students will learn to identify the elements of music and use those elements to understand and evaluate the music studied. In this class, students study the lives and faith of the great composers such as Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven. Students will also learn basic music reading and performance skills as they learn to read and write musical notation and perform music on bucket drums.

Physical Education

FOUNDATIONS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
FOUR QUARTERS

The sixth grade physical education course focuses on laying a foundation for the sports Dayspring offers at the high school level: volleyball, soccer, and basketball. Other sports are introduced so that students might expand their interests and abilities. Additionally, students play games and engage in activities that help to develop hand-eye coordination and other individual and team skills requisite to enjoying sports both in and out of school and fitness in general. Other focal points include stretching and exercising, which support the idea that students taking care of their God-designed body will strengthen them in all areas of life.

Science

EARTH SCIENCE
THREE QUARTERS

The purpose of this course is to investigate God's Creation. Science is based on the disciplines of following the scientific process. Science is usually defined as the study of observable facts or events. All other topics are outside the realm of true science and are philosophy (the pursuit of wisdom through avenues other than observation). While science is limited and fallible, students can understand and believe the truth that God's Word is absolute and infallible. Earth Science topics include the biblical account of Creation, understanding the world's view of cosmic evolution and how to counter it using a biblical and scientific approach, geology, meteorology, astronomy, oceanography, and man's role in the world as a steward.

Study Skills

FOUR QUARTERS

This course is designed to help students develop positive habits that will influence the rest of their lives. It emphasizes the importance of planning, staying organized, and using the Notebook Method. Students will learn about various learning styles, identify the way that God has created them, and strategize how to use this knowledge to strengthen their learning. Students will also learn time management, note-taking, study habits, listening, and test-taking strategies.

Grade Seven

Art

DRAWING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BRAIN

FOUR QUARTERS

Students will differentiate between the left and right hemisphere of the brain and learn to switch into more spatial, comparative ways of rendering images. The course will follow Betty Edward's book *Drawing from the Right Side of the Brain* as students engage in a plethora of exercises, technique instruction, and philosophical/psychological shifts in thinking. Larger projects will run throughout the duration of the course to provide opportunity for application of studied material and further development and artistic experience.

Bible

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

FOUR QUARTERS

"The Old Testament is the story of the nation of Israel, a nation unique and distinct from all the nations of the earth because God Himself entered into a covenant relationship with them. It is the story of a nation designed by God to bring glory to Himself and salvation to mankind --- a story of the great spiritual victories and defeats of men and the amazing faithfulness and grace of God" (*Survey of the Old Testament, Benware*). Emphasis is placed upon the two counter-themes of history, Man's Fall and God's Plan of Redemption. Redemption is the underlying theme of all Scripture. This course examines these themes from the Creation account to the Dispersion, the Captivities of Israel and Judah. Much time is devoted to Genesis, since this book provides the foundational principles of all Scripture.

English Literature

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

FOUR QUARTERS

In this course of English literature, seventh grade students will use the eight parts of speech within the framework of classifying, diagramming, and writing sentences. The course is fully supported by a formal study of grammar, whereby students will practice writing effective sentences and utilize the writing process for the four types of paragraphs, essays, fictional and personal narratives, reports, poetry, and letters, with the goal of speaking and writing excellently in a manner carefully designed to glorify God. Students will use MLA standards, parenthetical referencing, and note-taking skills as well as the library databases as they complete various research projects each quarter, including an oration at the end of the year. Students will complete a book commentary about a classic piece of literature, as well. Seventh graders will determine how the study of English reveals the biblical principles of Christian Character: Integrity, God's Principle of Individuality, Order, Union with Unity, Sowing and Reaping, and Conscience. Within this course students will find the works of God and the triumphs and follies of men as recorded in both pagan and Christian literature, such as *Iliad*, *King Arthur*, *Agamemnon*. The student should be personally compelled to compare the culture of the unbelievers with that culture which bears the mark of Jesus Christ.

Geography

EASTERN HEMISPHERE

J-TERM (CURRICULUM IS ON A ROTATION BASIS WITH GRADES 6 AND 8)

The seventh grade geography course includes the study of Asia and the Middle East. Major geographic features, cultural, governmental, economic, and religious distinctives are studied. A review of the map standard and map reading is included. Students will identify the divisions and designations of the terrestrial globe, including hemispheres, longitude, latitude, the equator, and prime meridian, and they will understand how the time zones and the international date line work. They will also create current maps of Asia and the Middle East and embark on a study of the natural resources, flora and fauna, as well as governmental systems, religions, and cultures of these peoples. Importantly, the students will identify and analyze the contributions of the peoples of Asia and Middle East along the timeline of God's plan and identify the advance of the Gospel to these nations.

History

ANCIENT HISTORY

THREE QUARTERS

History is *Christ, His Story*. This class examines the two counter-themes of history: Man's Fall and God's Plan of Redemption. From a providential view of history, origins of civilization are traced from the Creation account and the Tower of Babel to the Fall of the Roman Empire. As students examine prominent ancient civilizations, they will emphasize the evolution of government forms, the political-religious tension, and the contrasting biblical and pagan worldviews. In the midst of all of this, students will recognize God's sovereignty and providence throughout all of His Story.

Field Study: Hebrew Tabernacle, Lancaster (1/2 day)

Latin

FOUNDATIONS OF LATIN (7)

FOUR QUARTERS

Students of the seventh grade Latin course will learn John 1:1-8 in Latin by heart by the end of the year. They will recite the Lord's Prayer in Latin before Christmas break then begin committing the Apostle's Creed to memory. They review translation protocols and set up an Excel spreadsheet to support their translations. They will work on translations of chapters 3-6 of the *Latin Bible Reader*, which hold the biblical accounts of Joseph reuniting with his brothers, Moses' calling, Elijah on Mount Carmel, and David and Goliath. Students will also complete derivations for each chapter's vocabulary words. They will do additional translations of a story from Wheelock's Latin, a passage from Caesar's Gallic Wars, and one of Aesop's fables. The major project will be focus on the armor of God, where each student will design, create, label, and present a representation of the armor in Latin. Seventh grade students will review the eight parts of speech, parts of the noun, parts of the verb, noun cases, and *sum* (being) verb conjugation then add the five noun declension endings as well as the present, imperfect, future, and perfect tense of the first conjugation, *amo* (I love).

Mathematics: Math 7

STANDARD COURSE OFFERING

FOUR QUARTERS

Typically, seventh grade students take the Holt Course 3, a curriculum that is both a higher math preparatory course of algebraic concepts and an upper level arithmetic skills course in which teaching methodologies will vary but will center around three-pronged hybrid instruction that includes small group teacher interaction, project and problem collaboration, and independent computer-based practice. Math 7 builds on the foundation of Math 6 by strengthening student understanding of ratios and proportions, scale factor, slope, perimeter and area of various geometric figures, exponents, inequalities, unit conversions, percent, graphs, as well as welcoming students to tackle such challenges as scientific notation, absolute value, and functions. This course, as is true of all mathematics courses, is the science of quantity, which treats of magnitude (size, shape and number), anything that can be measured. Pre-Algebra is intended to create automaticity in the use of upper level arithmetic and to prepare the student for success in Algebra I.

Physical Education

COMPONENTS OF PHYSICAL FITNESS AND TEAM SPORTS (7)

The seventh grade physical education course builds on the previous year's foundation for the sports Dayspring offers at the high school level: volleyball, soccer, and basketball. Other sports continue to be practiced so that students might expand their interests and abilities. Additionally, students begin to learn the components of physical fitness, such as cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition. Students use this understanding as they play games and engage in activities that serve to develop individual and team skills essential to enjoying fitness in general while supporting the idea that taking care of their God-designed body will strengthen them in all areas of life.

Science

LIFE SCIENCE

THREE QUARTERS

This course begins with a look at science as a subject then focuses on the concept of life. Students will survey the various components of the life sciences, including cell biology, botany, zoology, ecology and origin views, and they will recognize their biblical role in this world as stewards. The last portion of the course deals with human biology and health. Adolescence is a time of rapid growth and change. As students approach this time of their lives, they often have many questions, concerns and misconceptions. It is critical that students be taught the important aspects of health so that they might make wise choices, and it is especially important that this topic be presented from a biblical point of view. This course will introduce students to the concept of health dealing with its physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects. The beauty of God's design will be examined through a study of the body systems. Care for this vessel that God has entrusted to each person will be dealt with in the areas of nutrition, exercise, and disease prevention.

Field Study: Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY (3 nights)

Grade Eight

Art

PRINCIPLES OF ART (ELECTIVE COURSE)

FOUR QUARTERS

Students will study key biblical principles and will define and experience them via illuminating art projects. The projects will not only coincide with the principles but bring an array of exposure to the students as they focus on artistic theory and technique and use many mediums. Examples of this include *God's Principle of Creativity* Color Theory- Rules of color, color families, and creating a color wheel and painting with applied color theory; *God's Principle of Order* Tessellation; *God's Principle of Unity* Pointillism.

Bible

WISDOM BOOKS

FOUR QUARTERS

This course is a study of wisdom, which is “true religion; godliness, piety; the knowledge and fear of God, and sincere and uniform obedience to His commands” (Webster) and is founded in the wisdom of Jesus, the wisdom as delineated in James, and the OT Wisdom Books of Ecclesiastes, Job, Proverbs, Psalms, and Song of Solomon. The goal of the course is that students will grow in the fear of the Lord; therefore, they will make right use of knowledge, choosing laudable ends and the best means by which to accomplish them (Webster).

English Literature

ENGLISH LITERATURE (8)

FOUR QUARTERS

Students will read and study Homer's *The Odyssey* and examine it for epic conventions and distinctive motifs while also identifying biblical truths in this pagan literature, for all truth is God's truth. Later, they will contrast this reading with Lew Wallace's *Ben Hur*, which has a Christian perspective. As both are read, students will discuss and identify the various elements of literature, such as setting, plot, style, character, and analyze how they serve to identify a central theme. Also, students will identify various poetic elements in their poetry study. Students will engage in researching and writing with proficient use of MLA standards and database research, particularly when crafting an oration, and they will write a book commentary for *A Miracle Worker*. This English Literature course is supported by a formal study of grammar and vocabulary and is intended to prepare the student for high school.

Geography

EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA

J-TERM (CURRICULUM IS ON A ROTATING BASIS WITH GRADES 7 AND 8)

The 8th grade geography course includes the study of Europe and Australia and their associated islands. Major geographic features, cultural, governmental, economic, and religious distinctives are studied. Students will review divisions and designations of the terrestrial globe and how time zones work; they will also use the map standard to create current geopolitical continent maps. This course includes the study of the natural resources of these continents, the contributions of the peoples, and the historical advance of the Gospel there. Students will enjoy budgeting for a three-day vacation to a destination within the study, too, then present a plan to the class that includes sight-seeing events of cultural significance.

History

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY AND CIVICS
THREE QUARTERS

This eighth grade course is essentially a narration of how God exercised His sovereign plan for our nation through the founding and development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It views God's work through individuals and relates history to the student who lives here and the continuing of God's plan for the future. Studying history in this manner allows the student to see the relationship between cause and effect therefore producing a reasoning student. A student who reasons biblically from cause to effect is less apt to repeat the mistakes of the past. The course identifies biblical principles that undergird the study of the Indians of Pennsylvania, its settling, William Penn's Holy Experiment, frame of government, and Charter of Privileges; it progresses through the founding of Pennsylvania to pre-war agriculture and commerce and post-war industry. Students of this course consider the responsibility of citizenship, the roles of government, and how laws are made, then take a field study the Lancaster County Courthouse to observe court in session and to Harrisburg to tour the capitol and state museum with a congressman. They recognize the biblical basis for government and discuss the differences and relationship between the state and federal government.

Field Study: Capitol building and state museum, Harrisburg (1 day)

Latin

FOUNDATIONS OF LATIN (8)
FOUR QUARTERS

Students of the eighth grade Latin course will develop a biblical view of language, of which Latin is significant as a foundation for the study of other languages or is reflective of previous ancient languages, such as Greek. Students will memorize John 1:1-10 in Latin by the end of the year. They will work on translations of chapters 7-11 of the *Latin Bible Reader*, which includes Psalm 23, Isaiah 53, John 14, and holds the biblical accounts of Daniel in the Den of Lions and Paul's conversion. They will memorize the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. They will review grammar and will do 2nd conjugation *Habeo-I have* and pronouns. They will do additional translations of Caesar's Gallic Wars, Wheelock Stories, and Aesop's Fables. The major project of the course will focus on various aspects of the Roman Empire: education, weaponry, religion, food, games, and engineering feats. Students will write a paper as well as present their findings in the medium of their choosing.

Mathematics: Algebra I

STANDARD COURSE OFFERING
FOUR QUARTERS; 1.0 CREDIT

In this course in the methodology of Algebra I, teaching methodologies for will vary but will center around three-pronged hybrid instruction that includes small group teacher interaction, project and problem collaboration, and independent computer-based practice. Here students solve algebra problems including the following: equations and inequalities containing variables, powers, and exponents; absolute value; proportions and percents; scientific notation; linear functions; polynomials; and quadratic functions and equations. Students also determine how the study of algebra reveals God through the biblical principles of constancy, Christian character, problem-solving, representation, and the Dominion Mandate. This course is intended to prepare the student for Algebra II. **Note: A designated Prealgebra**

course will be offered to students who need more time with prealgebraic concepts. Students who take this course in eighth grade will take a full Algebra I course in ninth grade.

Music

MUSIC APPRECIATION (ELECTIVE COURSE)

FOUR QUARTERS

Music Appreciation is a course designed to introduce students to American music of various styles and time periods in order that they may understand the evolution of American music. Students will study the origins and characteristics of musical genres including timeless hymns, spirituals, blues, jazz, folk, and musical theater. Students will expand their music literacy skills as they read and perform music on bucket drums and learn to write rhythmic notation. This class has a significant hands-on component as students regularly practice piano keyboard skills in a setting tailored to each student's individual level of skill. Students will also explore basic playing techniques for various instruments which may include trumpet, trombone, saxophone, drums, and hand bells.

Physical Education

COMPONENTS OF PHYSICAL FITNESS (8)

The eighth grade physical education course focuses on strengthening the components of physical fitness while building on the foundation for the team sports Dayspring offers at the high school level: volleyball, soccer, and basketball. Students continue to expand their abilities in other sports. Students will expand their use of the components of physical fitness--cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition--and relate it to the activities, games, and sports in which they engage both in and out of class. Students will recognize that strengthening the body God has given them will strengthen them in service to Him in all areas of life.

Science

PHYSICAL SCIENCE – STEM

3 QUARTERS

This STEM course integrates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The course focuses on the engineering design process, problem solving, and scientific thinking, and it serves as an introduction to physics (motion, work and machines, wave energy) and chemistry (matter, atomic structure, the Periodic Table, bonding and molecules, acids and bases). Students learn to graph and analyze data, and they use the metric system for scientific work. They also grasp scientific principles through hands-on discovery and application. The dependability of God's laws is emphasized throughout the course, specifically the laws of Thermodynamics, Irreducible Complexity, Biogenesis vs. Spontaneous Generation. Further, Creation and Evolution theories are examined. Students of this course use the Scientific Method to create a project for the school's science fair.

Field Study: New Jersey (1 night): Buehler Challenge & Science Center; Arena STEM (Paramus); Liberty Science Center (Jersey City)

