

Des Moines Christian School

JH Course Guide

This course guide is based on the current offerings at Des Moines Christian School as of fall 2015. Course offerings are subject to change based on annual policy review by the Board of Directors and curriculum review by the Educational Program Committee. Curriculum reviews may add/delete programs or update course objectives, resources, and descriptions.

This information can be used each winter/spring as students/parents plan for the upcoming school year with the Academic Advisor. The planning is based on our best estimate for course offerings. When changes occur, families will be notified in a timely manner to consider other course options.

Junior High courses do not earn credits towards graduation.

JUNIOR HIGH COURSE GUIDE

JH Electives .. for 7th and 8th graders

- Junior High Band
- Junior High Jazz Band - meets two mornings per week during Early Bird (7:25-8:10am)
- Junior High Choir
- Talented and Gifted (TAG) .. Invitation only; based on COGAT scores; replaces exploratories.

7th Grade Required Courses

Bible 7

This course is designed to examine and study the Old Testament books from Genesis to Esther—Creation and early human history; the history of Israel; the covenants; the Exodus; entry into the Promised Land; the time of the Judges; the rule of the Kings; the dispersing and return to Israel; and the thread of Messianic prophecy. The student will come to have knowledge of Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah and Savior of the World and salvation through His blood and finished work on the Cross. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The students will also demonstrate an understanding of discipleship.

Geography

Students will locate the major countries, landforms, water forms, as well as many of the world's landmarks. They will be able to relate history, politics and economics to the development of a culture of both the past and the present. Students will also gain an understanding of events of one region and their affect on other regions of the world. They will also be able to understand how a region's geography affects a people's way of life.

Language Arts 7

Students study the stories and literary elements of *A Christmas Carol*, *D'Aulaires's Book of Greek Myths*, and *The Magician's Nephew*, as well as a variety of short stories, poems, articles, hymns, and Bible passages. Students will study Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes to strengthen their vocabulary skills, and go through the steps of the writing process to produce informative, persuasive, and creative pieces. Grammar is emphasized as students master the parts of speech and proper punctuation, capitalization, and sentence structure.

Life Science

Students explore and experience scientific classification, cell structure, ecological relationships, origins, and human systems. Through the use of selected readings, research, class and group discussion, group and individual projects, and utilization of scientific inquiry and experimentation.

Physical Education .. exempt for students enrolled in both Band and Choir.

Meets two or three days per week depending on semester - alternating with study hall on opposite days.

Math – Placement is determined by recommendation of the 6th grade math teacher. Each student's individual ability and pace needs will be considered. In most cases, one of the following will be taken:

Math 7 .. This course sets a strong foundation in working with fractions, decimals, & positive and negative numbers. It will proceed to work on exponents, statistics, equations and inequalities, percents, and geometry. The course will also focus on using different problem solving strategies.

Pre-Algebra .. The students will master the foundations for a solid mathematical understanding which will prepare them for a successful experience in high school mathematics. Algebraic and geometric concepts will be integrated in to every unit and meaningful connections will be made to real-world problem solving.

Exploratories .. These courses are designed as brief exposure to different areas of study. 7th grade students will rotate through:

Spanish 7 (1 semester)

Music (1/2 semester)

Technology (1/2 semester)

*TAG students will replace their exploratories with TAG class.

8th Grade Required Courses

Bible 8

Students will understand an overview of the New Testament. They will understand and be able to name each book, its author and give its basic outline and primary theme. They will know the geography involved in the NT and the missionary journeys of Paul. They will understand the historical context of each book and its impact on our world today. The students will discover the awesome and incredible plan of God through the ages and will memorize selected passages and read sections of the NT.

The students will also be able to understand the divisions of the Old Testament between the books of Poetry, Major and Minor Prophets. They will see the awesome provision of God for His people as well as His Holiness and Sovereignty. They will experience the majestic worship and emotion between God and His people. They will know the historical and geographical context of each book, the author, the intended audience and its purpose. They will be able to state the major divisions and themes of each book. They will understand the dual nature of prophecy, its interpretation and observe the application. They will also memorize passages from this section of scripture as well as reading select books.

Civics

Students will distinguish between different types of political systems and economic systems found in the world today. They will understand the workings of our United States governmental system and their role as a citizen within it. Students will also understand the Christian heritage behind our government. Students will learn how to engage with current events through a Biblical worldview.

Earth Science

We study astronomy, geology, meteorology, oceanography, and origins from a Christian perspective.

Language Arts 8

Students study literary texts such as Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and *The 21 Balloons*, as well as a variety of short stories, poems, articles, hymns, and Bible passages. Student continue to learn Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes, and various informative, persuasive, and creative writing pieces lay a foundation for writing at the high school level. Grammar study is more intensive as students review concepts from previous years and continue to broaden their knowledge of the parts of speech and proper mechanics.

Physical Education .. *exempt for students enrolled in both Band and Choir.*

Meets two or three days per week depending on semester - alternates with study hall on opposite days.

Math .. determined by the level passed in 7th grade, one of the following will be taken:

Pre-Algebra .. The students will master the foundations for a solid mathematical understanding which will prepare them for a successful experience in high school mathematics. Algebraic and geometric concepts will be integrated in to every unit and meaningful connections will be made to real-world problem solving.

Algebra I – JH .. earns 2 high school credits

This course sets a strong, solid foundation in working with negative numbers and proceeds to introduce algebraic concepts of variables, functions, relations, polynomials, systems of equations and inequalities, rational exponents, and quadratic equations.

Exploratories .. These courses are designed as brief exposure to different areas of study. 8th grade students will rotate through:

Spanish 8 (1 semester)

Art (1/2 semester)

Transitions (1/2 semester)

*TAG students will replace exploratories with TAG class.