

Grace Christian School

2025-2026

Junior High Course Descriptions



12407 Pintail St, Anchorage, AK 99516
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Grace Christian School admits students of any race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at Grace Christian School. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of our educational policies, scholarship, and financial programs, athletic, and other administered programs.

Grace Christian School reserves the right to admit and retain students on the basis of academic performance, religious commitment of parents and students, philosophical compatibility, and a willingness to cooperate with the Grace administration and abide by the school's policies.

Junior High Courses

7th Grade	8th Grade
Biblical Worldview	Life of Christ
Math 7, Pre-Algebra I <i>*Placement is based upon qualifying test scores, final math grade, and teacher recommendations</i>	Pre-Algebra I, Pre-Algebra II, Algebra I <i>*Placement is based upon qualifying test scores, final math grade, and teacher recommendations</i>
English 7	English 8
Life Science	Earth Science
World Studies	United States History
STEM, PE (2 quarters of PE), Study Skills	STEM, PE (2 quarters of PE), Tech Foundations
Band, Art, Choir, Publications <i>*Students pick one</i>	Band, Art, Choir, Publications <i>*Students pick one</i>

**Publications elective requires an application.*

Academic Program

Grace Christian School recognizes the uniqueness of the junior high years as a time of physical, academic, and spiritual growth. Junior high students will experience an increase in academic rigor, as compared to elementary school, to prepare them for a successful transition into high school.

Grades

Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter as a progress report. Two semesters compromise the school year. At the end of each semester, cumulative tests are given in core academic classes. A semester grade will be issued at the end of each semester for a final report card grade. Please see the Athletic Handbook for student eligibility due to failing grades.

Grading Scale

A 90-100 **B** 80-89 **C** 70-79 **D** 60-69 **F** Below 60

Standardized Testing

All junior high students will participate in standardized testing at least once per year. 7th grade will complete the Iowa Reading and Math benchmark testing and 8th graders will complete the PSAT 8/9 each spring. The 7th grade Iowa benchmark testing will be sent home when scores become available. Parents can check their students' College Board account for PSAT scores. The PSAT scores will also be shared at grade level nights held by the secondary counseling office.

BIBLE

Reveling in God's Word to know Him more and to make Him known.

BIBLE 7

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: None

Textbook: *Basics for a Biblical Worldview (BJU Press)*, ESV Bible

In this class, students will learn to distinguish between a biblical worldview and false worldviews by learning to relate the story of scripture to basic Christian beliefs and values. Students will learn what the Bible says about their identity, work, relationships, society and belief systems. The purpose is to help prepare students to think biblically as they navigate situations in their own lives. This class directly addresses the truth of biblical worldview and the false ideas behind other worldviews.

BIBLE 8

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

Textbook: *Life of Christ (BJU Press)*

This class builds on a biblical worldview and understanding the big picture of Scripture. It focuses on the Gospel and the life of Christ as the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan as promised in the Old Testament. This class will prepare students to live with Christlikeness in the world today, teaching Bible study skills for interpretation and application.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Developing minds and imaginations to comprehend and communicate Christ and His Word.

ENGLISH 7

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: None

Textbook: *Writing and Grammar 7 (BJU Press)*; *Explorations in World Literature (BJU Press)*

Novel Studies: *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick; *The Magician's Nephew* by CS Lewis; *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor;

English 7 places a strong emphasis on the study of grammar as well as the writing process. Students are introduced to various literary genres and terms while focusing on responding to and interpreting the literary text. Students read and write for both technical and aesthetic purposes. Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary are integrated throughout the curriculum. All 7th graders are required to participate in the ACSI Speech Meet.

ENGLISH 8

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

Textbook: *Writing and Grammar 8 (BJU Press)*; *Excursions in Literature (BJU Press)*; *Vocab from Classical Roots B (Abeka)*

Novel Studies:

This course is designed to introduce students to major literary elements and critical thinking in each reading selection. There is a strong emphasis on grammar, writing skills, spelling, vocabulary, and literature. Students are introduced to various literary genres and terms while focusing on responding to and interpreting the literary text. All 8th graders are required to participate in ACSI Speech Meet.

MATHEMATICS

Preparing students to enjoy and appreciate God's design, order and steadfastness through integrating biblical and mathematical principles.

PRE-ALGEBRA 1

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: Teacher's recommendation, standardized testing, previous math grades, and entrance exam results

Textbook: *Big Ideas Math Modeling Real Life 7* (Cengage)

Students in Pre-Algebra 1 will learn to think and communicate mathematically, gain confidence in their mathematical abilities, think critically while developing their own problem solving methods, and will build upon their knowledge of mathematical concepts including Number Sense, Integer operations, Algebraic Thinking with expressions, equations, and inequalities. Data representation and statistics, Fractions, Percents, with Ratio and proportion. We will talk about Geometric shapes, and find surface area and volume.

*Scientific Calculator necessary in the 2nd part of the course.

PRE-ALGEBRA 2

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Teacher's recommendation, standardized testing, previous math grades, and entrance exam results

Textbook: *Big Ideas Math Modeling Real Life 8* (Cengage)

Students in Pre-Algebra 2 will learn to think and communicate mathematically, gain confidence in their mathematical abilities, and think critically while developing their own problem solving methods. Students will strengthen knowledge of positive and negative integers expanding within rational expressions, exponents, and further solving and graphing functions. Students will graph simple linear equations, learn to use the pythagorean theorem, and be introduced to Geometric Transformations as well as Data and Modeling.

*Scientific Calculator required for this course. Seventh graders in Pre-Algebra 2 must earn a B or better to continue on to Algebra 1 in eighth grade.

ALGEBRA 1

Grades: 8

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra 2 with a grade of B or better or administrative review

Textbook: *Big Ideas Math Algebra 1* (Cengage)

Eighth grade Algebra 1 is a high school level course, however, junior high students do not earn high school credit for this course.

This course will not only focus on algebraic equations and problem solving but also on applications and connections to other academic disciplines. It builds on concepts introduced in Pre-Algebra 2. Scientific calculator required, graphing calculator optional.

*Suggested calculator: TI-83, TI-84, or TI-86. Eighth graders must earn a B or better to move into Geometry in the ninth grade.

SCIENCE

Marveling at God's amazing revelation of Himself through the diligent study of His Creation.

LIFE SCIENCE

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: None

Textbook: *Life Science* (Bob Jones University)

The focus of the 7th grade science curriculum is Life Science. Students will explore the features and needs of viruses and living things using scientific methods and problem-solving skills. Students relate the function of cells, the processes of cells, and the reproduction of cells to simple and complex organisms. Students will discover patterns of heredity and will investigate DNA relationships. The theory of evolution will be discussed and contrasted with the reality and truth of God's Word. Organisms in various kingdoms and the characteristics used to classify them are presented. Differences in cell structure are also discussed. Students are introduced to the plant kingdom including plant processes and relationships. Students examine animal characteristics and determine how they are used to classify animals into the different phyla. Students are given an introduction to the systems of the human body and how they function. An understanding of organs and how systems interact is developed.

EARTH SCIENCE

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Life Science

Textbook: *Earth Science* (Bob Jones University)

The focus of the 8th grade science curriculum is Earth Science. Students are introduced to the branches of science involved in the study of Earth Science (Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Meteorology, Oceanography, and Astronomy). Through class and lab activities students are introduced to Earth materials. Students apply science to the solving of problems and work with Scientific Methods. They are led through the elements of basic science and introduced to atomic structure. The differences between atoms and molecules are examined. Minerals are defined and mixtures of minerals are identified as rocks. The rock cycle and the three major classifications of rocks are studied. Students study landforms and examine the processes and agents that create these surface features as they learn about weathering and erosion. Students are introduced to the relationships among earthquakes, volcanoes, and plate tectonics, and how the forces within the Earth are tied to these relationships. The theory of evolution is discussed and contrasted with the reality and truth presented in God's Word. Students study the Earth's atmosphere and oceans as well as the characteristics and movement of air and water. Students examine the impact that humans have on the environment and study current events regarding pollution. Students explore the majesty of our created universe while studying the earth, moon system, solar system and galaxies.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Instilling a love of history by understanding people, places, cultures and events and by recognizing God's hand in them.

WORLD STUDIES

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: None

Textbook: *World Studies* (BJU Press)

This course is an overview of the history of the world; from ancient civilizations up to the modern era. Students are exposed to the history, religion, culture, government, and economy of different regions of the world both past and present. We will learn how primary sources are important to linking the past to the present. World geography will also be a component of this class.

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: 7th grade World History

Textbook: *The American Republic*, (BJU Press)

This course starts with the discovery of America, and follows our history through colonial times, the birth of our nation, and through the Vietnam War. Students will be challenged to think out of the box on key issues as well as debate about current events. Primary sources will have an important role in understanding the life of average Americans.

JUNIOR HIGH FINE ART ELECTIVES

Experiencing God's creativity by discovering, strengthening, expressing and revealing the creative gifts and talents of His people.

BAND

Grades: 7-8

Textbook: *Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician* S. Rush

Prerequisite: One year study of a traditional band instrument or interview with the director.

Band students will continue level-appropriate music to further develop their instrumental skills and prepare them for high school music. The director may require a demonstration of student ability on a traditional band instrument* in order to enroll. Students will prepare a wide variety of music including traditional band repertoire along with a segment on jazz and popular music for various concert performances throughout the year. (**Guitars - including bass - are not considered traditional band instruments and must receive director approval to join. Percussionists are expected to play all percussion instruments.*)

CHOIR

Grades: 7-8

Prerequisite: None

Junior High Choir is an exciting introduction to part singing and intermediate vocal technique. All students of changed and unchanged voices are welcome to participate. They will study and prepare choral music of a variety of styles for presentation in public concerts. As a part of the ensemble experience, participation in evening concert performances throughout the year is mandatory.

PUBLICATIONS

Grades: 7-12

Prerequisites: Teacher approval with application and recommended teacher references as requested by the teacher. Students should maintain a B average in all classes, be exceptional workers, willing to learn, quick to follow instructions, and glorify Christ in all things. Possible interview required. Course capped at 12 students.

The creation of the school's yearbook is the primary focus of Publications class. Course content includes writing, photography, ad sales, yearbook sales, design layout, journalism ethics, publishing criteria, and development of computer skills.

INTRODUCTION TO ART

Grades: 7-8

Prerequisite: None

This course develops a foundation in art through exposure to several 2-D and 3-D projects and mediums. These include drawing, color theory, layout design, watercolor, clay, and instruction in the elements and principles of art through practice. Art history is also integrated throughout this course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The following courses are rotated every quarter.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 (2 quarters)

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: None

In this course students will participate in fitness testing, team sports, individual sports, dance, lifetime sports as well as games that promote activity and teamwork. Students are expected to dress out for class, participate, and show respect and sportsmanship to all.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 (2 quarters)

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

In this course students will participate in fitness testing, team sports, individual sports, dance, lifetime sports as well as games that promote activity and teamwork. Students are expected to dress out for class, participate, and show respect and sportsmanship to all.

STEM

STEM 7

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: None

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math is a discovery class using all aspects of each to complete projects and labs. Students will be working in groups to solve thought provoking problems, make discoveries, explore, experiment and make mistakes. Students will use an inquiry based approach to work on various topics such as crime scene forensics, ecology, magnetism, energy, mass and velocity, and buoyancy. Goals for each student include development of skills to learn and apply new content, integrate previous content, interpret and communicate information effectively, use logical reasoning and work well as a member of a team. The curriculum is designed for in-class group work and each student is expected to participate cooperatively, provide input, and think outside the box, while learning in class.

STEM 8

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math is a discovery class using all aspects of each to complete projects and labs. Students will be working in groups to solve thought provoking problems, make discoveries, explore, experiment and make mistakes. Students will use an inquiry based approach to work on various topics such as thermal dynamics, forensics, electricity, space science, simple machines, architecture, civil engineering, Newton's laws of physics, mechanics, etc. Student goals continue to be the development and application of learning, applying new content in combination with the integration of previously learned content, interpretation and communication of information effectively, the use of logical reasoning and effective teamwork. Students will explore the possibility of concentrating on these topics for a possible career in life while seeing what they are truly capable of.

TECH FOUNDATIONS

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

Tech Foundations is a one-quarter course that introduces essential technology skills while integrating faith-based learning. Students develop programming fundamentals through interactive CodeHS activities, learning key concepts like commands, algorithms, and problem-solving. They also enhance typing speed and accuracy for effective digital communication. Additionally, hands-on experience with Google Workspace (Docs, Sheets, and Slides) equips them with practical skills for creating documents, managing data, and designing presentations. This course builds a strong technological foundation while fostering critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

STUDY SKILLS

STUDY SKILLS

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: None

Textbook: Study Skills and Strategies for Upper Elementary/Middle School (*Mangrum-Strichart Learning Resources*)

This course is designed to enhance students' organizational skills, time management, note-taking, study, and test taking skills. Students will apply these skills to their current subjects/assignments, as well as taking notes in class and from textbooks. By improving these skills, students are given tools for success in school and everyday life.