

# Sylvan Way Christian Schools



Curriculum Guide  
Middle School

## Sylvan Way Christian School Middle School

### Bible

Our primary text is *A Light to the Gentiles* published by the International Association of Christian Schools. This study helps students gain a better understanding of the New Testament. They memorize verses, produce skits and do a variety of writing activities to deepen their faith and understand what it means to follow Christ.

### Reading/Literature

We use a literature-based approach to reading instruction, studying the basic elements of literature, comprehension strategies, and vocabulary. Independent reading and reading for pleasure are also part of the program.

### Language Arts

We use Rebecca Sitton's **Spelling** program which places an emphasis on retention of commonly used words, spelling correctly in context in all subjects, and understanding spelling conventions.

### Writing

Middle School students write essays, reports, summaries, and research papers, as well as creative works, such as stories and poetry. We use the *Write Source Handbook* by Houghton Mifflin for grammar, mechanics, and usage.

### Mathematics

#### **Algebra - Holt**

Students gain a thorough grounding in basic algebra, including usage of a TI-84 calculator. They also use computers to do spreadsheets and other graphing projects.

#### **Pre-Algebra - Holt**

Students become familiar with using formulas and variables. They also become familiar with the basic function of a TI-84 calculator. They do ADD (Arithmetic Developed Daily) which reviews basic math skills on a daily basis.

### **Middle School Math - Harcourt Brace**

Students use ADD (Arithmetic Developed Daily) to review basic skills and refresh their usage of old skills. They use the class text along with hands-on projects to gain a thorough understanding of math usage in today's world and enhance their problem-solving skills.

### **Science**

The Science curriculum for Middle School is based upon a rotation over three years, with a topic of Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science taught each year. Students explore the subjects of Animals, Chemistry, Oceanography, Physics, Weather, Electricity and Magnetism, Geology, Cells and Microbes, and Health, through a variety of methods. With the textbooks, we integrate research projects and practical use of basic lab equipment. Texts include *Total Health* by Rivers Edge, *Discovery Works* by Concordia, and numerous volumes by Pearson Education.

### **Social Studies**

The Social Studies curriculum for Middle School is also based upon a three-year rotation. The three major areas are:

Western Hemisphere with an emphasis on Latin America, Canada,  
and World Geography;

The World with an emphasis on Medieval Europe, Modern Europe,  
and Africa;

and Asia and The Ancient World.

Four strands spiral throughout the major topic areas:

1. Social Studies is about people. Therefore, the focus is on the geography, culture, religion, economy, government, and history of people.
2. Current events are tracked to create a sense of connection.
3. There is a continual connection made to the United States and those of us who live in this area.
4. Faith. This includes such things as missions, understanding religious issues, and what God's word has to say about these areas.

## Technology

Students use their basic understanding of the computer to produce papers and projects. All papers, for every subject, need to be computer generated. Each subject incorporates projects that require knowledge of basic computer programs like Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.

Middle School students may also choose to be involved in "crew". They learn to set up microphones and other equipment for our weekly Chapel and other special programs.

## Specials

Middle School students have **Physical Education** twice a week for one hour. Students participate in activities to develop strength, endurance and flexibility. They develop basic skills in individual and team sports. Emphasis is placed on cooperation as a team and showing good sportsmanship.

In **Art** students learn the basic elements of art including line, shape, form, color and texture. They learn to follow instructions and be creative in their weekly projects.

Middle Schoolers choose an **elective**: Beginning or second year Spanish, Speech/Drama, or Band. These classes meet twice weekly for an hour. Each class gives various opportunities for performance and special activities that add excitement to the program.

We have a **Home Ec** program three days a week. In groups of three or four, students learn to prepare, serve, and clean up the lunch that they make for their peers. They also have the opportunity to practice their skills in this area for special occasions such as Grandparents' Day and the Christmas Lunch for the Anchors (the senior citizens of Sylvan Way Baptist Church).

Middle School students lead our **Family Chapel** program. They prepare, lead, teach, and do activities with younger students at Sylvan Way.