

*Vacaville Christian
Middle School*

2011-2012



- *Core Subjects*
- *Electives*
- *Athletics*
- *Activities/Honors*

Course Catalog

Theme Verse

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity; to give prudence to the naïve, to the youth knowledge and discretion, a wise man will hear and increase in learning....

Proverbs 1:1-5

Vacaville Christian Middle School

OUR MISSION:

Vacaville Christian Schools, in partnership with home and church, exists to provide a distinctive Christ-centered education in a nurturing environment which equips young people to excel in life and service to Jesus Christ.

ACCREDITATION:

VCMS maintains dual accreditation from the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The Accreditation process reviews a schools condition as it relates to philosophy, the structure and organization of the school (admissions, school governance, finance, personnel, instructional program, resources, students services, guidance services, health, safety, food services, school facilities, etc...). An excellent accreditation review process would result in a 6 year renewal being awarded. VCS was awarded another 6 year renewal in June 2009.

OUR CAMPUS:

We enjoy a beautiful 20+ acre campus in Vacaville, CA. Our facilities include well-equipped classrooms, college-level equipped science lab, 32+ unit computer lab, media technology center, radio/TV station, a multi-purpose facility, an extensive library, a band rehearsal room with 3 practice studios, and a fully-staffed kitchen and hot lunch program. Our athletic facilities include football and soccer fields, baseball and softball fields, a full-court basketball gymnasium, a second full-court basketball court, a weight room, and large locker rooms.

EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS:

VCMS offers a complete, excellent range of academics, designed to prepare students to excel in high school and college. Every student takes mathematics, English, science, history, PE, and Bible, in addition to an elective course. Each teacher offers tutoring workshops throughout the week to assist students or answer questions. For parents, we have an on-line program, PowerSchool, that enables parents to check assignments, grades, and attendance on-line and help to monitor their son/daughter's course work and progress.

Middle School Advanced Courses

Math 6 Advanced	English 6 Advanced
Pre-Algebra Advanced	English 7 Advanced
All 8th graders: Algebra 1	English 8 Advanced

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS:

At VCS, we integrate Biblical truths into each subject area taught. Daily Bible classes, weekly Chapels, and clubs with Biblical themes supplement the Christian growth experience. We are blessed to have a MS Worship team lead us in worship during Chapels and a pastoral covering team that present messages. Annually there is a wonderful Spiritual Retreat. Sixth graders go to Camp Del Oro for a Christian Outdoor education camp focused upon **God's intelligent design** for retreat and 7th and 8th graders travel to Koinonia for a spiritual emphasis retreat. This year's theme will be "Super Heroes: Zeroes to Heroes." Retreats are a wonderful place to develop new friendships and for spiritual growth.

ELECTIVES:

We offer a wide variety of electives to enhance the curriculum and give students a chance to broaden their education and discover their God-given talents and abilities. A description of each course can be located in this Course Description Guide.

OUR EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Athletics

VCMS has established an extensive, athletic program with 19 Middle School teams.

Our sports include the following:

Volleyball (3 teams)	Cheerleading
Cross Country (1 team)	Soccer (2 teams)
Basketball (4 teams)	Tackle Football (2 teams)
Flag Football (1 team)	Track (1 team)

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Student Government
Bible Leadership
Cooking
Daughters of the Savior (DOTS) cartooning
Drama
Sci-Fi
Missions Club
National Junior Honor Society
TNT (Tutors in Training)



Every MS Student is enrolled in seven courses:

1. *Math*
2. *English*
3. *Science*
4. *History*
5. *Bible*
6. *PE*
7. *Elective*

Progression of Courses:

English: English 6, English 7, English 8

Math: Math 6, Pre-Algebra, and then Algebra 1.

(Geometry for those who have completed Algebra 1.)

A minimum grade of C- is required both semesters in math in order to proceed to the next level math class.

History: History 6, History 7, History 8

Science: Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science

Bible: **Route 66**—6th grade (Overview of all 66 books of the Bible), **GodMan** - 7th grade (Life of Christ), and **Wise Up**—8th grade (Teachings from the book of Proverbs made practical for teenagers today, in coordination with integrated stories from the Bible).

PE: **PE 6** (Co-ed, does not dress out, require athletic shoes)

PE 7 / 8 (Gender specific, PE uniforms, athletic shoes and socks required)

Proposed 6th Grade Elective Wheel for the 2011/2012

School Year: (Tentative)

Students are automatically enrolled in the 6th grade elective wheel. It consists of a quarter long course of each of the following:

- **Computer Keyboarding/Microsoft Applications**
- **Write Right (Writing Skills and Creative Writing)**
- **Spanish**
- **Art Attack (Art I)**

Full Year electives pursued by 6th Graders who opt out of the 6th grade Wheel: MS Band, MS Yearbook, Math 6 Plus, and Run with Reading are offered as year-long courses. MS Yearbook is a specialty elective and requires an application process and selection in order to participate. Priority is given to 7th and 8th grade applicants.

Courses Requiring Applications (Due April 15, 2011)

- **Advanced Math 6, 7**
- **Advanced English 6,7,8**
- **MS Chapel Leadership**
- **MS Yearbook**

Table of Contents

Core Subjects

Bible	Pages-9 to 10
History	Page 11
English	Pages 12-to 14
Math	Pages 15 to 17
Science	Pages 18-to 19
Physical Education	Page 19

Electives

~ Art 1—Art Attack	Page 20
~ Art 2– A Personal Journey	Page 20
~ Chapel Leadership	Page 20
~ Keyboarding / Microsoft Applications	Page 21
~ Digital Photography	Page 21
~ Flash Animation	Page 21
~ Chapel Media Arts	Page 22
~ iPad App Development	Page 22
~ Graphic Design / Advertising	Page 22
~ Commercial Production 101	Page 23
~ Intermediate Band	Page 23
~ Instrumental Music Studies	Page 23

Electives (Cont)

~ Algebra Plus	Page 24
~ Pre-Algebra Plus	Page 24
~ Math 6 Plus	Page 24
~ Run with Reading	Page 24
~ Podcasting / Blogging	Page 25
~ Intro to Spanish	Page 25
~ Spanish 1	Page 25
~ Write Right!	Page 26
~ Yearbook	Page 26

Information

~ General Information	Page 3 to 6
~ Schedule Planning Sheet	Page 27
~ Student Activities/ Sports Teams	Page 28-29
~ VCS SAT Results 2010	Pgs 30 to 32
~ Expected School-wide Learning Results	Page 33
~ Awards and Recognitions	Page 34
~ Contact Information	Page 36

Course Catalog

Course Selection

The purpose of this catalog is to provide descriptions for the many incredible core and elective courses offered by Vacaville Christian Middle School. Each listing should include a basic description and in some cases, pre-requisite and/or special application requirements.

Course Descriptions—Core Subjects

Department of Bible

It is our desire, through Bible classes, weekly Chapel, Fall Retreat, spiritual emphasis activities, and day to day interactions, to encourage students to draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ and to develop their personal relationship with Him.

BIBLE 6

~ Dynamic Christian Living

The heart of Christianity is transformation, a relationship with God that impacts not just our "spiritual lives," but every aspect of living. As with a marathon runner, the secret to winning the race lies not in trying harder, but in training consistently---training with the spiritual disciplines. Training consists of exercises that build strength and endurance for the road of growth. The fruit of the Spirit are the signposts along the way.

Dynamic Christian Living teaches students the basic foundational truths of Christianity and gives them the tools to grow in their relationship with the Lord.

BIBLE 7

~ God Man ~ The Life of Christ

In this class you'll come face to face with Jesus Christ and have the opportunity to respond to His call of faith, relationship, and discipleship. We'll study the Biblical accounts of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. Emphasis will be placed not only on knowing the truth, but also on applying truth to daily life and choosing practical ways to follow in Jesus' steps. Students will practice methods of personal Bible study, learn evidences for Christian faith, discover Christ in the Passover participate in a traditional Passover celebration, write and share their personal testimony, and know the Biblical truth needed to lead a person to Christ.

BIBLE 8

~ Wise Up ~ A Study in the Wisdom of Proverbs

We're not children anymore; but we're not quite adults yet either. Let's explore through God's Word how we can become independent and think for ourselves as the Lord shows us that we have worth and purpose in our own lives. Students will use a variety of study techniques in this class: scripture reading, workbook completion, journaling, scripture memorization, etc..

SERVICE HOURS

All Middle School students are required to perform 20 service hours for their Bible class (A minimum of five hours per quarter). Service Hour forms are available from the Bible teachers and in the Middle School office. We highly encourage students to look for opportunities to serve at their church and in their community. Service hours are a promotion requirement to the next grade and count towards 10% of the semester grade as well.

Department of History

HISTORY 6

~Amenhotep to Ziggurats ~ the ABC's of Ancient History

Using the texts, supplementary readings and class activities, students learn about, analyze and experience cultural life around the world in the 2000 years before the birth of Christ. From the rivers of Mesopotamia to the pyramids of Egypt, in the Far East of India and China, students analyze lifestyles, religions, and thoughts of the great philosophers in the ancient world. We'll look at Greek history, philosophy, mythology, and art. Our year closes with the start of the Roman empire and the rise of Christianity. Particular attention is paid to early civilization's search for God, and how He reveals Himself to those who seek Him.

HISTORY 7

~ Medieval and Early Modern Times

Seventh grade history focuses on the Roman Empire (500A.D.) to the Enlightenment (1800 A.D.) We'll examine the rise of Islam, Empires of Africa, feudal Japan, Medieval and Renaissance Europe, and the Reformation. Different cultures and beliefs will be compared with our Christian beliefs. The class will examine the changing role of the church in history.

HISTORY 8

~ American History ~ 100A.D. - WWII/ Cold War 1953

Students will study the exploration of the Western Hemisphere and the colonization and establishment of American government. During their study students will look at Manifest Destiny, the Civil War, the Gilded Age, and the Wild West. As they proceed into the 20th Century they will study the Great War, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, WWII, and the Cold War. Our year ends with a trip to Washington DC.

Department of English

ENGLISH 6

~ 6th Grade Language and Literature

The objective of sixth grade language arts is to introduce and thoroughly explore various aspects of the English language through literature, writing, class discussions and grammar exercises developed to teach and reinforce vocabulary, reading comprehension, and communication skills. Through the study of carefully chosen, excellent novels, students will begin to look at their world through the Christian, Biblical worldview.

ENGLISH 6 ADVANCED

~ Advanced 6th Grade Language and Literature

Special Application Required: YES 4/15 deadline

In addition to the core assignments, students in this course will read additional novels that find major and minor characters in a perpetual state of motion. As a class we take our own journey to Jack London's home in Glen Ellen, CA to discover what influenced his writing and to roam where he roamed. This class delves into Shakespeare (*As You Like It*), reading and acting out scenes, writing alternate endings and discovering a whole new understanding of Shakespeare .

ENGLISH 7

~ Seventh Grade Language and Literature

Seventh grade English will take us on a journey through the swashbuckling tale of *Treasure Island*, the futuristic world of *Gathering Blue*, and we'll discover how the *Lord of the Rings* saga began with *The Hobbit*. We'll also discover the keys to communicating, writing mystery stories, biographical writing, newspaper short stories and persuasive essays. Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary will also help us to learn to communicate effectively.

ENGLISH 7 ADVANCED

~ From Tolkein to Shakespeare!!

Special Application Required: YES 4/15 deadline

Along with stories listed in English 7, Advanced students will sink their teeth into challenging reads such as, William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, Alexandre Dumas' *The Three Musketeers*, and additional selections that revolve around themes of truthfulness and making right choices. Students will respond to literature through writing literary analysis, persuasive essays, and skits. They will publish their own fictional stories, research historical figures, write newspaper editorials, and investigate God's truth and love. Vocabulary connected to novel selections is designed to aid in reading comprehension. Grammatical analysis and games will cover the eight parts of speech, sentence types, modifiers, verbs and their auxiliaries, capitalization and punctuation.

ENGLISH 8

~ Eighth Grade Language and Literature

English 8 provides the foundation for high school language arts skills. Writing centers around mastery and practice of the five paragraph essay, while reading encompasses several selections of classic authors and poets from our reading anthology. Students will read and analyze three full length novels by notable writers including Corrie Ten Boom's *The Hiding Place*. The class anthology provides advanced classic and contemporary literature selections, supported by skills instruction and practice in grammar and writing.

Literary concepts and active reading strategies are reinforced with numerous follow-up activities, as well as in class discussions. The writing portion of our class is supported by curriculum that teaches key skills, provides an easy to follow approach to the writing process, and enhances oral communication skills.

ENGLISH 8 ADVANCED

~ 8th Grade Advanced Language and Literature

Special Application Required: YES 4/15 deadline

Materials used in the Advanced English 8 course are designed to teach truths that will produce, intellectual, spiritual, and emotional growth in our lives. In this class, student will work to master the written use of the English language, expand our vocabulary, conduct grammatical analysis, practice public speaking, and dig deeply into numerous advanced literary works including *Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare, *Johnny Tremain*, as well as works by Mark Twain, Jack London, Anton Chekhov, Maya Anjelou, and Nikki Giovanni. Writing exercises will include in class papers, creative writing, research and report writing. Grammatical analysis will continue to cover sentence patterns, verbs and auxiliaries, compound sentences and their elements. By the end of 8th grade, students should be able to write a well-developed, coherently organized five paragraph essay containing a clear thesis statement, a hook, well structured and well stated development, transition statements and a relevant conclusion and paragraph as well as a variety of other types of essays (informative, persuasive, etc...)

Department of Math

MATH 6

~ Math Applications and Connections

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 5 with a grade of C- or higher

This class focuses on computation (mainly mastery with decimals and fractions), problem-solving strategies, and the basics of statistics, probabilities, plane geometry and some algebraic fundamentals. Students will be given the opportunity to practice their basic math skills in preparation for algebra and geometry.

MATH 6 ADVANCED

~ Advanced Math Applications and Connections

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 5 with a grade of B- or higher

Special Application Requirement: YES 4/15 deadline

This class focuses on computation (mainly mastery with decimals and fractions), problem-solving strategies, a more advanced study of statistics and probabilities, plane geometry and some algebraic fundamentals. Several critical thinking and higher order questions are discussed, giving the intrinsically motivated students an extra challenge.

MATH 7

~ Pre-Algebra

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 6 with a grade of C- or higher

Pre-Algebra builds upon the essential skills of arithmetic as

they apply to algebra. Real numbers and linear inequalities, factoring, fractions, graphing and some elements of geometry are stressed. This class provides a transition from basic arithmetic to algebra, granting the opportunity to learn and master basics that are critical to higher level mathematics: Upon completion students should be able to solve algebraic equations and inequalities, use operations with integers, calculate percentages, proportions and ratios, find the area and volume of various solids, as well as cover other basic concepts of geometry, statistics, and probability.

MATH 7 ADVANCED

~ Advanced Pre-Algebra

Pre-requisite: Completion of Math 6 with a grade of B- or higher

Special Application Requirement: YES 4/15 deadline

Advanced Pre-Algebra allows students with mathematical abilities to be challenged above and beyond the core pre-algebra class. This class will build upon the essential skills of arithmetic using real numbers and linear equations and inequalities, factoring, fractions, graphing and some elements of geometry. This class provides opportunity to learn and master basics that are critical to higher-level mathematics, emphasizing more abstract thinking and word problems. Upon completion students should be able to: solve algebraic equations and inequalities, use operations with integers, calculate ratios, proportions, and percents, graph simple equations, use rational numbers, exponents and scientific notation, and find the area and volume of various solids, as well as cover other basic concepts of geometry, statistics, and probability.

MATH 8

~ Algebra 1

Pre-requisite: Completed Pre-Algebra with a C- or higher

This course is designed to establish a strong foundation for further learning by developing a broad base of mathematical concepts necessary for higher mathematics and by building problem solving/reasoning skills. In this class, students will cover concepts in solving equations in one and two variables, polynomials, rational expressions, simplifying radicals, quadratic equations, factoring, exponential functions, sequences and series, as well as simple statistics and probability. Successful completion of this course earns the student one year of math on their high school transcript.

Algebra Plus, Pre-Algebra Plus, and Math Plus are elective classes, described later in this catalog. They are specifically designed to help students who would benefit from additional reinforcement of mathematical concepts. This class is highly encouraged for students who earned a grade of C+ or less in their previous math class.

Department of Science

SCIENCE 6

~ Earth Science Extreme!

Earthquakes! Volcano's! Tornados! Tsunamis! Hurricanes! If it is extreme and affects the earth...We study it! We'll begin by focusing on the methods of science, map skills and orienteering; and all of the areas related to geology, tectonics. The second half of the year, we turn our attention to the atmosphere including weather, climate, and biomes. We finish the year with a study of the ocean. In the spring, students make life-like models

As we study each section we observe and discuss the amazing aspects of our planet that show **God's Intelligent Design**. Students will also participate in regular labs using up-to-date equipment in our modern lab facility.

SCIENCE 7

~ One semester Introduction to Anatomy/ Physiology

~ One semester of Botany and Zoology

Anatomy and Physiology will study the basic cell, its parts, functions, cycle, production and their life cycle. From the cell, we begin to learn about DNA, how it works, the chromosomal differences, structure and how to copy a DNA molecule. Students will also determine how genetic disorders result, how to crack the genetic code, and what occurs when DNA of different organisms are combined. They'll study the organization of the human body including: major tissues, organs, organ function, the skeletal system, joints, and the muscular system, This course concludes with the study of the cardiovascular system, blood types, the lymphatic system, the nervous system, the endocrine system, and the respiratory system.

Zoology and Botany will focus on all aspects of the major groups of vertebrates and invertebrates. Students will study the Theory of Evolution, Creation, life history, morphology, plant life, and genetics. Hands on labs will include dissection.

SCIENCE 8

~ Physics/Atomic Science

Physics—Speed! Velocity! Acceleration! Action and Reaction! In physics we'll study force, the laws of motion, work, energy, simple mechanics, electricity and how God's Intelligent Design is detailed throughout the universe. Students will participate in regular hands on labs!

SCIENCE 8

How small is the atom? What would happen to the earth if electrons stopped spinning? What if we had nucleic material the size of a grape? Could the earth hold it? Students will study all the foundational elements of physics in an effort to understand and answer these questions and more. They'll learn about the states of matter, phase changes, and how atoms form elements, compounds, and mixtures. Chemical bonding and reactions are introduced and examined. **God's Intelligent Design** is detailed throughout our study. We participate in several exciting labs while learning about safety procedures. Students will work together to create an interactive periodic table as a culmination project.

Department of Physical Education

PE 6

This course is designed to enhance students' personal fitness /sports skills through exposure to a wide variety of sports and fitness activities. It will also prepare students for the future enjoyment of an active lifestyle through exposure to various individual, team, and recreational activities as well as develop knowledge of the rules, strategies, and behaviors related to participation in sports which require cooperation, perseverance, responsibility, self-control, and respect.

PE 7/8

Physical activity is an enjoyable and essential part of our lives. Character traits will be emphasized through participation in sports requiring teamwork, sportsmanship, honesty, determination, and good Christian conduct. Emphasis will be placed on an individualized analysis of fitness including: Physical Fitness Training (shuttle run, mile run, push ups, sit ups, and flexibility testing), weekly endurance training, flexibility training, ultimate Frisbee, flag football, dodge ball, gator ball, basketball, basic weight lifting, soccer, softball, and kickball.

Electives

ART 1 (6th grade elective wheel only): Art Attack

In this introductory class, students will learn the basic elements of art and experience the different mediums artists use in creating their work. One point perspectives, color theory, water coloring, and printing are just a few of the techniques students will practice.

ART 2: A Personal Journey

This class explores the student's creative ability to use various mediums. Course work will include study and practice of the elements and principles of design, two and three dimensional design, and appreciation of themes found in art. Mask making, sculpting, clay modeling, acrylic painting, and creating two dimensional perspectives are just a few of the projects students will complete.

ART 3: Art Expanded

This course uses master artists and their works in the study of techniques, media, and approaches to art. Developing techniques of their own and opinions of their own is one of the goals for students, as well as the production of art. Students will keep both a written and sketch journal as part of their grade. An in-depth look at techniques, styles, and periods of art will be undertaken. Assignments in drawing, painting, graphics, sculpture and ceramics will be part of the coursework.

CHAPEL LEADERSHIP (Specialty Year-long elective)

Special application/audition requirement: YES 4/15 deadline

Students in this course will be responsible for leading worship (instrumentals, vocals, and technical aspects) for our weekly MS chapel. This is a year long elective limited to fifteen 7th or 8th grade students. Students should have some experience vocally or instrumentally. Responsibilities include leading worship for chapel, song selection, set-up and tear down of equipment, sound board

technology, instrumental and vocal practice, prayer time, and scripture reading. Students in this class are expected to have a good work ethic, maintain good grades, show integrity, and be willing to go “above and beyond” in their efforts. A student may be asked to step down if their actions are not consistent with Christian character.

KEYBOARDING / MICROSOFT APPLICATIONS (6th grade wheel only)

~ Keying to Success

With the use of the Micro-type program, students memorize the keyboard, develop typing technique, and improve their typing speed through hands-on lessons and computer games. This class is essential preparation for all middle school and high school students report and essay writing requirements.

This course will also explore basic topics in computer technology, including the use of the Microsoft Office Suite applications. The main activities of this course include projects that promote word processing skills and creative design to create individual and team projects for use in the classroom and at home.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Students will learn fundamental photographic skills including Digital capture, manipulation, and output. Students must have their own digital camera with adjustable exposure and focus. Students will learn the basics of Photoshop.

FLASH ANIMATION (Semester elective)

This course uses the Adobe Flash animation program to create simple to complex animations. The students in this course will learn basic storytelling skills, simple design principles and explore the use of 2-D animation to create their own animated cartoons.

CHAPEL MEDIA ARTS

~ Special Application Required: YES 4/15 deadline

This class is designed to instruct and equip servants in numerous aspects of sound reinforcement, studio recording, and multimedia presentation. There will be Bible study, and ample amounts of hands-on training. We will learn about servant-hood, effects, video, presentation software and many other aspects of media ministry. The goal of this course is to train up competent and humble servants who seek to use their talents and gifts to glorify God.

iPAD APP DEVELOPMENT

With the growth of technology and the advent of tablets like the iPad, millions of apps are flooding the market for every use imaginable. This course teaches the basics of app development using Object-oriented design using model-view-controller pattern for the Mac OS systems of iPads, iPods, and iPhones. This course will teach the students to develop iPhone technology skills and soft skills to enable students to plan, design, build iPhone (iPad) apps and upload apps to Apple's App Store.

GRAPHIC DESIGN / ADVERTISING

Graphic design and interactive media is becoming an essential part of the advertising, business, and entertainment industries and is an exciting new field of integrated electronic communications. The students use Adobe software to combine audio, video, images and text into one seamless, interactive and informative work of art that can be used for church ministries, school presentations, and business advertisement. They'll create their own companies and develop promotional material for these companies.

COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION 101

Commercial making is a specialized form of Film-making. While using the basic grammar of film-making in general, commercials require a special knowledge of the film-making craft to create instant recall, unforgettable branding and eventually impact sales. A commercial maker needs to have a special knowledge of the bio-response mechanisms of the human mind. It is a skillful craft in which the use of colors, textures, sound and graphics are used to create indelible images. During the course, students are given input in screenplay writing, continuity, elements of visual design, principles of visual composition, color theory,

INTERMEDIATE BAND (MS Band) (Year-long elective)

~ Pre-requisite: Completion of fifth grade band or at least one year of band experience.

The class focuses on the skills of musicianship, technique and performance to prepare the student for more advanced work in the VCS Instrumental Music Studies program. The class is repeatable 6th through 8th grades. Students prepare music of classical, modern symphonic and jazz styles. They participate in 4 performances per year as the VCS Explorer Ensemble.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STUDIES

~ Pre-requisite: Rated Level VI or higher and permission from the instructor (usually by audition) Year-long elective

This class meets Mon. & Thurs. evenings from 6-8 p.m.

This course is designed for the student planning on a lifetime of music-making as a professional artist, semi-pro artist or a patron of the arts. Students in this course are members of the VCS Radio Symphony and in some cases, VCS

Radio Jazz as well. Members of these ensembles study and perform professional level music. The focus is on complete works of high art from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Projects in this course can include restorations of historic cinematic works, full suites and symphonies, original composition, studio recording, and full movie music accompaniment from the silent era.

Note: this course requires considerable time outside of the regular class schedule including evenings and some weekends. Certain projects require additional fees to cover travel and production expenses.

ALGEBRA PLUS (Available to Algebra 1 students only)

PRE-ALGEBRA PLUS (Available to Pre-Algebra students)

MATH 6 PLUS (Available to Math 6 students only)

Plus classes offer students an opportunity to readdress concepts covered in class that day. It is an ideal place to complete math homework with guidance available from a math teacher. If math doesn't come easy this is the place to excel!

RUN WITH READING (Grades 6-8 / Sem. or Year-long)

This program is designed to help MS students improve their reading speed and comprehension and to expand their vocabulary. Each workbook in this course includes passages from differing reading levels. The readings are timed and followed by three sets of exercises: comprehension, critical thinking, and vocabulary. These exercises work together to advance each student's reading level and depth of understanding of the text and its word meanings. Reading comprehension is such a critical part of every student's success in ALL subjects. What a great opportunity to grow in this area!

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH (7th or 8th graders / Semester elective)

“Hablas Espanol?” This semester long course was developed to prepare students for Spanish 1. The grammatical fundamentals of Spanish include but are not limited to greetings, family titles, conjugation of –ar, –er, and –ir verbs, possessive adjectives and subject-verb agreement. Other aspects of the class include the study of cultural art, customs, and participation in the class “Fiesta.”

HIGH SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE

SPANISH 1 or FRENCH 1 (8th grade only / Year-long electives)

Pre-requisite: B or above in the previous years’ English class for the second semester.

Students will study vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation of words in order to communicate verbally with the goal of carrying on a conversation in Spanish. Students will demonstrate the proper use of punctuation, accents, and sentence structure in the English language. This class will require extra studying effort and homework time. Attending tutoring is highly recommended.

These are high school level courses. Students who successfully complete Spanish 1 or French 1 will be eligible to enroll in Spanish 2 I or French 2 in high school.

WRITE RIGHT!! (6th grade wheel only)

Write Right! Discovering your Voice!

How important is it to write well? Any high school or college student can tell you good writing is critical to your success! Students will expand vocabulary and learn the purpose and techniques of different writing styles. They will create narrative, expository, persuasive and creative essays while practicing grammar, punctuation and vocabulary. Students will work to develop individual written expression and style in a variety of formats, including poetry and description.

YEARBOOK

Special Application Required: YES 4/15 deadline

(Year-long elective)

Students taking this special elective are given the task of designing and producing the middle school yearbook. Students will participate in photography, design, layout, conducting contributor interview, set production schedules, and meeting production deadlines. This is definitely a great class for the creative at heart. As a specialty elective it should be noted that there may be additional work required outside of normal classroom expectations (during the summer and 1-2 times per quarter). Students in this class may occasionally have afternoon or weekend deadlines to meet. *Students in these classes are expected to have a good work ethic, maintain good grades, show integrity, and be willing to go “above and beyond.”*

Schedule Planning Sheet

Elective Choice #1

Elective Choice #2

Elective Choice #3

Elective Choice #4

Core classes/electives requiring a special application:

Submitted Application

_____	Yes	No
-------	------------	-----------

_____	Yes	No
-------	------------	-----------



Sports Teams

Athletics:

Flag Football (1 team)

Tackle Football (2 teams)

Volleyball (2 teams)

Basketball (4 teams)

Soccer (2 teams)

Cheer

Cross Country

Track





***S*udent *A*ctivities:**

8th Grade Washington D.C. trip

6th and 7th grade 6 Flags trips

Student Council

**Clubs (Cooking, Cartooning, Disciple
ship, Sci-Fi, Missions)**

Middle School Christmas Party

Bowling Party

Spelling Bees

Band Festivals

Missions Projects

8th Grade Grad Party

National Day of Prayer

Country Faire

VCS Stanford Achievement

Test Results

2010

<u>6th Grade</u>	VCS	Yrs Above Nat'l Norm
Total Reading	8.7	1.9
Reading Vocabulary	8.4	1.6
Reading Comprehension	8.8	2.0
Total Mathematics	9.8	3.0
Problem Solving	9.6	2.8
Procedures	10.5	3.7
Language	10.0	3.2
Mechanics	9.6	3.1
Expression	9.4	2.6
Spelling	9.1	2.3
Science	8.7	1.9
Social Science	8.7	1.9
Listening	12.0	4.2
Thinking Skills	9.4	2.6
Basic Battery	10.2	3.4
Complete Battery	10.0	3.2

The Stanford Achievement Test is a national standardized test used to measure knowledge of elementary and secondary school students throughout the United States. The test is broken into 13 levels, with each level broken into sub tests or strands. These subtests assess performance in various subjects such as, Reading Comprehension, Mathematical Problem Solving, and Science.

VCS Stanford Achievement

Test Results

2010

<u>7th Grade</u>	VCS	Yrs Above Nat'l Norm
Total Reading	9.8	2.0
Reading Vocabulary	10.2	2.4
Reading Comprehension	9.7	1.9
Total Mathematics	12.5	4.7
Problem Solving	PHS	5+
Procedures	12.6	4.8
Language	11.0	3.2
Mechanics	12.0	4.3
Expression	10.1	2.3
Spelling	9.5	1.7
Science	9.8	2.0
Social Science	9.6	1.8
Listening	9.6	1.8
Thinking Skills	10.5	2.7
Basic Battery	10.9	2.6
Complete Battery	10.5	2.7

The scores indicated in the VCS column are norm based scores that compare a student's performance with that of a representative sample of students across the United States. As an example, a score of 9.9 by a VCS 6th grader means that our 6th grader has answered about the same percentage of questions correct as the average 9th grader being tested at the same time of year.

**VCS Stanford Achievement
Test Results**

<u><i>8th Grade</i></u>	<u>2010</u>	VCS	Yrs Abv. Nat'l Norm
Total Reading	11.0		2.2
Reading Vocabulary	11.1		2.3
Reading Comprehension	10.7		1.9
Total Mathematics	11.8		3.0
Problem Solving	PHS		4.2+
Procedures	11.9		3.1
Language	12.6		3.8
Mechanics	12.0		3.2
Expression	10.8		2.0
Spelling	10.8		2.0
Science	10.5		1.7
Social Science	12.5		3.7
Listening	PHS		4.2+
Thinking Skills	11.4		2.6
Basic Battery	12.7		3.9
Complete Battery	12.8		4.0
4.0			

California ranks very low in the national educational standings. As a result, VCS has chosen to use the Stanford Achievement Test rather than a state assessment, such as the STAR test, to evaluate our students performance. Our results reflect student performance against a much larger sample of students, and thus provides a more accurate reflection of how

*Pursuing Excellence in Education
by training up students who are:*

F	Faithful Followers of Christ
A	Achievers of Acad. Excellence
L	Lifelong Learners
C	Critical Thinkers
O	Outstanding Communicators
N	Nurturing, Godly Leaders
S	Servant of Others

***Vacaville Christian
Middle School***

Awards and Recognitions

Academics

Grace B Powell Citywide Spelling Bee

1st and 2nd Place

ACSI Spelling Bee

1st, 2nd, and 4th, Places

Sports Awards

Cross Country

2010 Girls NSAL Champions

Football

2010 Youth Tackle Football Division III—Junior Midgets and
Midgets Conference Playoffs

Basketball

Girls Red Team 2011 CCL Champions

Fine Arts

John Drury Radio Broadcasting Award

2011 North Bay Honor Band

Evan Losoya

Casey Smith

Brandon Taylor

Swanson Woo

ACSI Honor Band

Food for thought!

Consider these biblical principles as you develop the reputations you will wear this year.

Young man it is wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it. Do everything you want to; take it all in. But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do.

Ecclesiastes 11:9 NLT

Remember it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

James 4:17

Yes the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit that is produced.

Matthew 7:20

Who are you going to be this year?

1. Remember, you are not here to gain knowledge. You're here to gain wisdom by connecting who you are in Christ to everything else in the world.
2. Be a person of significance in God's eyes. Be a person of substance, not style.
3. Care about things that really matter in light of eternity!

What are you going to do of significance this year?



*Vacaville Christian
Middle School
1117 Davis Street
Vacaville, CA 95687*

*Contact Information:
707-446-1776
Ext. 1150 / 4051*