

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Learning Objectives

### Language Arts

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade literature course encompasses teaching students reading, writing, & grammar at a level that prepares them for high school. Students will continue how to think analytically and critically about the selections they read genres including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, and written selections from America's oral history. Students will keep a vocabulary notebook, respond to readings in journals, and be assessed for reading comprehension. Our text is *The Language of Literature*, by McDougal Littell, copyright 2006 by Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company.

### Mathematics

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade math course is *Pre-Algebra*, by Holt McDougal, copyright 2012 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing. Overarching topics include the number system, expressions & equations, functions, geometry, statistics & probability, rational numbers & exponents, and proportionality & linear relationships. Students will understand concepts, apply them to real-world problems, and be prepared for standardized testing. Daily assignments, periodic quizzes, and chapter tests will be given.

### Religion

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Religion course is designed for real life application of God's Word to our everyday lives in Him. The focus of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year is on Spiritual Gifts and how they are used for the building of the church, Christ's Body on Earth. Students will discover their own gifts and look for ways they may use them today in their home, school,, and church. Students will participate in daily lessons & devotions with assigned memory work weekly. The class will keep a group prayer journal and periodically look back on it to see just how God has answered our prayers. Our text is *The Holy Bible*, God's Eternal Word.

### Science

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade science course entitled *Science Fusion* will blend print, inquiry, and digital experiences for students to participate in the scientific method. The major topics that will be covered include the *Diversity of Living Things*, *Cells and Heredity*, and *Matter and Energy*. Students will keep a science journal in conjunction with their work-text. They will participate in hands-on and virtual lab activities, and in digital lessons on their iPads. Students will make presentations of their experiences and present them through the use of Apple TV. Other forms of assessment will include science journals, labs, and tests.

## **Social Studies**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies course is all about the history of The United States from pre-colonial America through post Civil-War reconstruction. American geography and government will also be experienced through various learning opportunities. Critical and analytical thinking skills will be stressed in the process. The use of technology to read primary source documents and to see historical places will be emphasized. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade field trip is to Washington D.C., which will make American history come alive and be unforgettable. Along with assignments and tests, students will create projects & reports that enable them to show their talents in the field of social studies. Our text is *America, The Nation*, by Pearson Education, copyright 2003 by Prentiss Hall Publishing.

## **Middle School Electives**

### **Art**

Students will focus on developing skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, and collage by studying the styles of famous artists. Elements and principles of design will be emphasized in each project. Students will have the opportunity to experiment and refine skills using a variety of art media.

### **Handbells**

Handbells is open to any 6th, 7th, and/or 8th grade students with an interest in instrumental music. The course calls upon students to learn proper handbell ringing technique, build a basic understanding of musical theory, increase sight-reading skills, develop rhythm, and perform a variety of musical styles and genre. Students will be required to participate in all scheduled performances that occur inside and outside of the regularly scheduled school day. Class size is limited. Returning and experienced ringers will be given preference. New players will be gladly accepted and the ability to read music is not required. A variety of musical selections, as chosen by the instructor and as suggested by the ringers, will be used.

### **Spanish**

The Trinity Lutheran Middle School Spanish program's main goal is to provide students with meaningful and enjoyable opportunities to hear and use Spanish. The textbook, "Como te va?" is used and students are introduced to many simple yet realistic communicative topics to get them speaking Spanish immediately. Each lesson will include a segment on the different cultures from Spanish speaking countries from around the world. Methods used to keep students

motivated, enthusiastic and engaged include songs, games, visual aids, crafts, projects, skits, and making food. Students will be speaking, reading, writing, and listening to Spanish every time they come to class.

## **Fine Arts**

The Middle School Fine Arts program emphasizes the idea of working hard as a team and competing in a Christ-like manner. With performances throughout the year and competitions like LEST (Lutheran Elementary Schools Tournament), our middle school students are able to put these ideas in action. Students are given the opportunity to choose which classes they would like to take or which ensemble they would like to be in. Between the music ensembles, drama opportunities, and other classes, there is something for every student that walks through Trinity's doors. In all the arts, Trinity's program strives to be pleasing to God and teaches our students to share the gifts He has given to the school, church, and to the community of Bend.