

# Price Middle School Curriculum



## Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

### LANGUAGE ARTS

Our Language Arts program is college preparatory and designed to give students a foundation in literature and language analysis. Through the program, students learn to interpret, speak, and write about literature. Students become more fluent readers and more skilled writers. Even more, they become more confident speakers and more thoughtful listeners.

The program aims to use language as a vehicle for thought, creativity, reflection, learning, and self-expression. Language is used as a tool for the development of students' personal growth, social interaction, and for developing relationships with their peers and within their neighboring community. Students comprehend more clearly aspects of their own culture and those of other cultures.

Our program covers and highly meets every aspect of the California State Standards, which includes Reading, Writing, Grammar, Vocabulary, Poetry, Novels/Literature, Reading Comprehension, and Public Speaking/ Presentations. Our program uses varied instructional methods including but not limited to: Lecture, Peer-to-Peer Learning, Small Group Activities, and Workshops

After completing our Middle School Language Arts Program, our students possess a mastery of critical thinking and reading skills; a high level thinking ability to process, to analyze, and to draw conclusions based on supportive evidence; and the ability to read, write, speak, and listen reflectively and critically.

### MATHEMATICS

The Middle School Mathematics Program is college preparatory and encompasses Math 6, Pre-Algebra, and high school level Algebra I. Algebra I is a college required course which is offered to our Middle School 8th grade students and it is A-G approved for colleges. These courses are intended to build a foundation for the high school math classes. Each math class provides instructions for the skills as required by the state of California. The instructional methods used involve a range of skills and strategies (small groups, student teaching, problem solving) that allow the students the opportunities to think critically.

### Mission

The mission of Frederick K.C. Price III Christian Schools is to provide high academic learning in a disciplined, well-organized, safe, Christian environment. We will provide a biblically based college preparatory curriculum with personalized attention for all students. We will also provide a strong athletic and an enhanced extra-curricular program which will promote high social standards. We will accomplish this mission by:

- Providing exemplary preschool, elementary, middle and high school programs in a safe Christian environment
- Serving a diverse community encompassing all socioeconomic levels and races
- Expanding Frederick K.C. Price III Christian Schools' current leadership position by serving the responding population
- Achieving this mission through the power of the Holy Spirit and a premier-managed organization, competent, effective and satisfied personnel, who are valued, protected, and rewarded

Courses begin with writing and simplifying numerical expressions as well as introductory algebraic expression. They focus on developing problem-solving strategies, especially on writing equations that require the use of signed numbers and several inverse operations for solutions. Emphasis is placed on the use of variables in equations and expressions. Statistics, non-routine problem solving, cooperative learning functions, geometric formulas, rations, and proportions are explored.

The course continues with the review of algebraic expressions, integers, and mathematical properties that will lead into working with variables and linear equations. There is an in-depth study of graphing, polynomials, quadratic equations, data analysis and systems of equations through direct class instruction, group work, homework, student projects and technology.

## **SCIENCE**

The sixth grade science curriculum serves as a hands-on introduction to middle school science education. Throughout this course, students master important scientific processes and safety skills through class work, laboratory experiments, and field investigations. Students develop an awareness of the relevance of Earth's science as an integral part of their everyday lives; and develop a proficiency in inquiry-based thinking and problem solving skills. This direction is achieved through the integration of various Earth science concepts—such as plate tectonics and Earth's surface, shaping Earth's surface, heat thermal energy (physical sciences), energy in the Earth system and ecology and much more.

The seventh grade "Life Science" course is a required grade level course. Throughout this course, students master important scientific processes and safety skills through class work, laboratory experiments, and field investigations. Students develop an awareness of the relevance of Life Science and other sciences as a part of their everyday lives and foster a growing appreciation of and interest in Life Science and other sciences. This direction is achieved through the integration of various Life Science concepts such as cell biology, genetics, evolution, structure and function in living systems, investigation and experimentation and much more.

The eighth grade program looks at the physical sciences of chemistry and physics and is a required grade level course. Throughout this course, student master important scientific processes and safety skills through class work, laboratory experiments, and field investigations. Here, the major topics are matter and energy, and how they can be changed for the good of man. Subjects covered include the structure of matter, the atom, motion, energy, simple machines, magnetism, waves, light, sound, and energy and much more.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students in sixth grade expand their understanding of history by studying the people and events that ushered in the dawn of the major western and non-western ancient civilizations. Geography is of special significance in the development of the human story. Continued emphasis is placed on the everyday lives, problems and accomplishments of people, their role in developing social, economic and political structures, as well as in establishing and spreading ideas that helped transform the world forever. Students develop higher levels of critical thinking by considering why civilizations develop where and when they did, why they became dominant and why they declined. Students analyze the interactions among the various cultures, emphasizing their enduring contributions and the link, despite time, between the contemporary and ancient worlds.

Students in the seventh grade study the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia from 500-1789 AD. After reviewing the ancient world and the ways in which archaeologists and historians uncover the past, students study the history and geography of great civilization that were developing concurrently throughout the world during medieval and early modern times. They examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies and commodities. They learn about the resulting growth of Enlightenment philosophy and the new examination of the concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings and the divine right of kings, experimentalism in science and the dogma of belief. Finally, students assess the political forces let loose by the Enlightenment, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, and they learn about the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today.

Eighth grade students study ideas, issues and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I, with an emphasis on America's democratic institutions founded in the Judeo-Christian heritage and English parliamentary traditions, particularly the shaping of the constitution, students trace the development of American politics, society, culture and economy and relate them to the emergence of major regional differences. They learn about the challenges facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the causes, course and consequences of the Civil War. They make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE- SPANISH 1A/1B**

The Spanish I course for middle school students is a college preparatory course and is A-G approved. It is designed to teach the basic elements of the Spanish language and culture. Through short dialogues using everyday vocabulary, students will begin to speak, read, write and understand spoken Spanish. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities to foster a better understanding of the language and the culture.

Spanish I learners will cover content such as greetings, introductions, locations, numbers, the present tense of verbs, conjugations, simple sentence writing and asking questions, among others. Student assessments will include dialoging, teacher observation of group activities, oral presentations, and the usage of grammar and activity workbooks to impact overall student performance, and finally with regular quizzes & tests.

At the end of first year Spanish, the learner should be able to engage in very basic conversations with friends, family, and classmates. The intent of this course is to provide a general history of Spanish culture as well as preparing them for transition into the next level Spanish II.

## **FINE ARTS**

**Intro to Theater Arts/Drama** begins with students recognizing their own self worth and learning how to communicate with others. Throughout this unit students become familiar with written scenes in script format, understanding player-audience relationship, begin learning vocabulary terms used in Theater.

**Building Your Acting Skills-** involves students learning how to use their personal resources, techniques and skills used to express themselves emotionally, intellectually, socially, and physically. Students are introduced to acting components, voice projection and articulation, role playing, movement, improvisation, and characterization.

**Appreciating Plays-** involves reading, analyzing and performing published works, within the text. Students also learn the development of theater in various cultures, view video productions and attend 2 live productions.

**Taking to the Stage-** Students apply what they learn in Theater to performances, before live audiences.

**Drum Line** is a course designed for students to become active members in a working and performing drum corps. All students will learn to play and will be expected to demonstrate competency on snare drum, bass drum, quads and cymbals. The Marching Knights Drum line has won several competitions during parades.

Along with theatre arts and drum line classes, additional classes include dance, choir, drawing, and technical theater.

Each year, the Performing Arts Departments performs a winter and spring production where students at all levels demonstrate their gifts and talents. All productions are spiritually based and incorporate bible principles that are used to minister to the audience with the hope of adding members to the body of Christ. We have an annual Arts festival to display the students' visual art work.

## COMPUTER

This is an exploratory course that begins with keyboarding skills to help students develop proper keyboarding techniques, accuracy and speed. In this hands-on course students will also learn to effectively surf the web, create interactive PowerPoint presentations, and construct various publications such as calendars, flyers and brochures. In addition, this is a semester filled with exciting and interactive computer projects. In this hands-on course students will create various interactive multimedia projects using PowerPoint, Excel and Word. This does not satisfy the high school technology requirement. Students will be assessed using various methods such as, but not limited to: course text (critical thinking drills), quizzes/pop quizzes, group drills and tests.

## BIBLE

The sixth grade Bible program is a practical study of the Book of Acts that challenges students to make the message of Acts 1:8 real in their lives. Students realize that if they continuously obey the Lord Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, they will discover numerous ways for their lives to prosper above and beyond, to the ends of Earth.

In the seventh grade, the program helps students explore the miraculous birth of Christ, his ministry, teachings, and miracles as they work through the Biblical books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In essence, students walk where Jesus walked and learn about his teachings and miracles in this New Testament curriculum; students experience scripture adventures. They explore Bible maps and timelines that help them coordinate Bible events with a history curriculum. Moreover, they read about Christ's many miracles. Students are truly set on an adventure through the life of Christ. An adventure that ultimately helps them gain a better appreciation of Christ's love and sacrifice for them.

Eighth grade students' program covers the time of the Judges. In addition to the twelve military leaders of Israel, students study the lives of Ruth, Eli, and Samuel as presented during this period of biblical history.

Leadership principles are woven into each lesson as students study both the positive and negative qualities of each individual.

Students are provided lectures on the various lessons. Moreover, they read aloud from the text as well as their Bibles. Students are also required to complete the various lessons that are a part of the chapters and units. Students are assessed by quizzes and tests. In addition, students do biblical enactments and they memorize and present scripture versus. They are also assigned creative writing activities.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students participate in physical education as part of their daily curriculum with their classroom teacher. During this time, students work on stretching muscles and participate in various activities for exercise. Students learn concepts relating to physical fitness through the health curriculum.

**Instructional Program - Elementary Health & Wellness:** This program provides students with valuable, real-life lessons that help them become healthy and productive students. Flexible lesson plans that fit into busy classroom schedule. This program integrates reading instruction and life skills lessons to help students achieve health literacy. The wonderful part of this program is a variety of hands-on, mind-on and physical activities. Continuous assessment opportunities are included. The components of this program are: *Health Education, Physical Education, Health Services, Nutrition Services, Psychological and Counseling Services, Safety and Healthy School Environment, and Health Promotion for Staff.*

If you have any further questions regarding our curriculum feel free to contact us at 323.565.4199.