

MS Course Descriptions 2024-2025

Middle School Courses at a Glance

GRADE 6	GRADE 7 & 8	
<p><u>Required</u></p> <p>Bible (Two Quarters) Bible 6: Laying the Foundation</p> <p>English English 6 Writing Workshop (Two Quarters)</p> <p>Mathematics Pre Algebra A Pre Algebra B</p> <p>Physical Education PE Boys 6 PE Girls 6</p> <p>Science Earth Science 6</p> <p>Social Studies Social Studies 6</p> <p><u>Electives</u></p> <p>Year-Long Band (6,7,8) Choir (6,7,8) Color, Design & Draw Spanish 1A (6,7) Student Council Leadership (6,7,8 Selected) Vex Robotics/Engineering ASP Study Skills (Psychoeducational Evaluation; monthly fee required)</p>	<p><u>Required</u></p> <p>Bible (Two Quarters) Bible 7: Exploration of the Gospel Bible 8: Introduction to Biblical Studies</p> <p>English English 7 English 7 Honors English 8 English 8 Honors</p> <p>Mathematics Pre Algebra B Algebra I (P)* Geometry (P)*</p> <p>Physical Education (Two Quarters) PE Boys 7 PE Girls 7 PE Boys 8 PE Girls 8</p> <p>Science Life Science 7 Physical Science 8</p> <p>Social Studies World History 7 US History 8</p>	<p><u>Electives</u></p> <p>Year-Long Band (6,7,8) US Concert Band (P) Choir (6,7,8) French I(P) (8) Math Problem Solving (7,8) Spanish 1A (7) Spanish 1B (7/8 continuation from Spanish 1A) Spanish II(P) (8 continuation from Spanish IB) Student Council Leadership (6,7,8 Selected) Yearbook (7,8) ASP Study Skills (Psychoeducational evaluation; monthly fee required)</p> <p>One Semester Director's Workshop/Broadcast VEX Robotics</p> <p>One Quarter Acting Boys Action Packed PE Games Boys Basketball PE Boys Football PE Co-ed Volleyball Creative Writing Drawing Engineering Entrepreneurship & Stock Market Game Faith Hall of Fame Girls Action Packed PE Games Girls Beach Games Girls Identity & Sisterhood Improv Theatre Inside the Middle School Brain Life Hacks NEW Logical Fallacies and Other Foolish Thinking NEW Marine Biology Painting Photo and Design Printmaking Sculpture Speech and Debate NEW Surf, Skate, Snow</p>

(P)* - Upper School class	
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Bible (Two Quarters)

The Bible Department seeks to instruct students in the historic Christian faith: imparting students with a greater knowledge of the Bible, equipping them to defend and model the Christian faith, and seeking to disciple them to grow in wisdom and a Godly spiritual walk. Our purpose is to preserve, transform, and influence our sphere of Godly influence using the message of Jesus Christ to develop meaningful personal relationships with our triune God.

Bible 6: Laying the Foundation

Sixth grade will begin by laying the foundation of their faith in the Word of God. By studying the structure of the Old and New Testament, the students will gain a better understanding of the Bible, the validity of the Bible, and the purpose of the Bible. An emphasis is placed on the central message of the Bible, Salvation, and the major stories from the Bible are explored. The students will be encouraged to grow in their faith through various activities such as personal devotions, a collaborative Rome Unit, and Sixth Grade Camp.

Bible 7: Exploration of the Gospel

In this two quarter course students will study the historical and cultural background of the time and place of Jesus. The life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus Christ happened in a time and place much different than ours. Understanding the culture of the Bible will lead to the ultimate goal of this course; to draw students deeper into their faith, understanding, and relationship with God.

Bible 8: Introduction to Biblical Studies

Students will first study the overarching narrative of the Bible. Understanding the larger Biblical narrative will help students to better understand the work of Christ. This study will happen primarily through the second half of the text *Visual Theology: Guide to the Bible*. Further, through shorter textual studies in Acts, Romans, Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, Galatians, James, and the letters of John, students will be challenged to think through what it means to think and act as a Christian in their postmodern and post-Christian context.

English

An essential part of “developing the Christian leaders of today and tomorrow” is modeling and fostering within students the skill of clear and effective communication. Therefore, the English Department strives to develop Christian communicators who have a strong command of the English language. As God is the creator of all language, and as He is the Word made flesh, students will approach their study of literature and language through a biblical lens, recognizing God as the origin. Language skills enable students to not only be successful in college and in their professional lives but also in sharing their faith with others. Ultimately, the combination of what students read, write, question, and consider will contribute to the development and articulation of a Christian worldview.

English 6

Sixth Grade English focuses on three methods of communication including reading, writing, and speaking. Students study novels throughout the year by analyzing texts for setting, plot, characterization, theme, and figurative language. We will also read poems, nonfiction texts, and study vocabulary. Students fulfill writing requirements in a narrative and expository format. Grammar is taught to enhance writing skills. Oral reports and presentations provide students the opportunity to improve their speaking skills. Through it all, we will expand our perspectives of ourselves, our peers, and the world. We will think deeply and ask tough questions. And we will see God’s grace, mercy, and love through it all.

Writing Workshop 6

Writing Workshop is designed to complement English 6. Over the course of two quarters, students will learn a variety of writing mechanics, forms and functions, including sentence structure, paragraph writing, and proper grammar and punctuation skills. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to explore multiple writing styles, including expository, persuasive, and narrative writing.

English 7

This course combines a wide variety of quality reading selections with literary analysis, critical thinking and reading skills, and composition. It is a comprehensive course, which emphasizes reading, vocabulary, grammar, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking. A Biblical worldview and Godly principles are integrated into the analysis and discussions of literature. Writing mechanics, such as the proper use of a thesis statement and its support, are taught. There is an emphasis on the stages of writing: pre-writing, evaluating, revising, proofreading, and writing the final draft. A study of Latin and Greek roots enhances students’ vocabulary and supports the development of vocabulary through literature selections.

English 7 Honors

As an honors course, students will engage in the seventh-grade English curriculum with greater depth and complexity. Deeper levels of thinking will be applied to the core curriculum to meet the needs of the students. The

development of critical and creative thinking is emphasized, and students engage in self-directed inquiry projects. Advanced reading and writing skills are required for this course.

English 8

Eighth grade students will continue to deepen their reading and writing skills by analyzing texts for style, plot, theme, setting, and characterization. A Biblical Worldview and Godly principles are integrated into the analysis and discussions of all literature. The elements of a short story such as conflict, rising action, climax, and resolution are discussed and analyzed. Writing in this course includes journal writing, quick writes, poetry, creative writing, and an emphasis on response to literature. There is extensive practice in writing multiple-paragraph essays with training in thesis writing. After developing a research question, students investigate various sources and then compose a research paper using primary and secondary sources. Proper writing mechanics are reviewed and practiced at this level. Vocabulary is taken from literature as well as Greek and Latin root words which are studied in context.

English 8 Honors

As an honors course, students will engage in the eighth-grade curriculum with greater depth and complexity. Deeper levels of thinking will be applied to the core curriculum to meet the needs of the students. The development of critical thinking is emphasized, and advanced reading and writing skills are required for this course.

Mathematics

At SFC, mathematics courses develop logical, rational, and creative thinking skills, while producing mature problem-solvers. Thus, our mathematics experience contains more than calculations, procedures, and formula memorization. Through the study of mathematics, students can explore the world and gain insight into God's creation, as well as solve real-world problems, working collaboratively with others. SFC's mathematics department strives to provide an education rooted in the belief that God is the ultimate source of knowledge, wisdom, and truth (Is 48:17, Prov 2:6). Our ultimate goal is to equip students with the mathematical knowledge and problem-solving skills they need to succeed in college and beyond while also fostering an appreciation for the beauty of mathematics itself.

Pre-Algebra A

The first half of Pre Algebra focuses on strengthening students' number sense while beginning to introduce more abstract mathematical concepts. Students will work with Positive and Negative Integers, Fractions, and Decimals throughout the course and use different forms of numbers to begin solving algebraic equations. Variables are introduced and equations are woven throughout all topics in the course. Students will focus on gaining a thorough conceptual understanding of these foundational concepts through investigations and real world application.

Pre-Algebra B

The second half of Pre Algebra uses the foundation built in Pre Algebra A to investigate the topics of Ratios, Rates, and Proportions at the start of the year. Students will take this knowledge to learn about Percentages including Percent of Change, Taxes, Commission, and Interest. Students will also begin to investigate Linear Equations with two variables as well as learn about the basics of Polynomials. Finally, students will look at Geometry principles involving shapes such as Triangles, Trapezoids, Parallelograms, Circles, and more.

Sixth grade students wanting to take Pre Algebra B must receive a recommendation by their current math teacher, based on their class achievement, standardized test scores, and the math placement assessment.

Algebra I(P)*

In this course, emphasis is placed on relationships between variables and on identifying relationships as linear, quadratic, inverse, or exponential. Students learn to solve linear and quadratic equations, inequalities, and systems of linear equations. Students study operations with exponents, rational expressions and equations, and polynomials. Function notation is formally introduced. Students investigate translations and reflections of functions.

Seventh grade Algebra I students need a B- or better average to progress to Geometry in eighth grade. Eighth grade students need to earn a letter grade of C- or higher to progress to geometry in the upper school or complete Algebra I by the end of grade 10.

Geometry (P)*

This is a two-semester upper school course in the study of Euclidean Geometry. The following topics will be covered: the language and logic of geometry, parallelism, congruent triangles, triangle inequalities, quadrilaterals, similarity, right triangles, circles, geometric constructions, area of plane figures, solid geometry, coordinate geometry, and transformational geometry.

Eighth-grade students in Geometry must have an average of B- or better to move to Algebra II.

Physical Education

SFC believes that the human body is a vital expression of God's creation in us, and as such, caring for our bodies is an integral part of serving God. "You are not your own; you are bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body." (I Cor. 6:20) Through Physical Education, students learn about movement, cardiovascular and muscular fitness, and play a variety of individual, dual, and team activities. Beyond physical fitness, PE courses provide opportunities for students to exhibit responsible behavior both inside and outside the classroom, fostering the development of lifelong habits of healthy living.

Grade 6 (Year-long)

PE Boys 6 and PE Girls 6

This course is taught in gender and grade level differentiated classes. Students will experience co-educational recreation game activities as well. This class is based on our MAFU principles (Mental Toughness, Attitude, Fanatical Effort, Unity/Unselfishness). It is designed to acquaint each student with the rules, strategies, and skills involving many of the following activities: volleyball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, baseball, hockey, lacrosse, badminton, golf, weight training, aerobics, square dance, and recreation games. There will also be activities in this class dedicated to building the student's fitness level. The physical activities in this class will provide a positive outlet for competition with peers and a means of gaining the respect and recognition of others. Students will experience a wide variety of exercises for flexibility, muscular strength as well as cardiorespiratory endurance. Students will be expected to improve and/or maintain their level of physical fitness for health and performance through regular daily participation. The students will participate in California's testing program called "Fitnessgram."

Grades 7 and 8 Core PE (Two Quarters)

PE Boys 7, PE Girls 7, PE Boys 8, PE Girls 8

This course is taught in gender and grade-level differentiated classes. Students will experience co-educational recreation game activities as well. This class is based on our MAFU principles (Mental Toughness, Attitude, Fanatical Effort, Unity/Unselfishness). It is designed to acquaint each student with the rules, strategies, and skills involving many of the following activities: volleyball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, baseball, hockey, lacrosse, badminton, golf, weight training, aerobics, and recreation games. There will also be activities in this class dedicated to building the student's fitness level. The physical activities in this class will provide a positive outlet for competition with peers and a means of gaining the respect and recognition of others. Students will experience a wide variety of exercises for flexibility, muscular strength as well as cardio-respiratory endurance. Students will be expected to improve and/or maintain their level of physical fitness for health and performance through regular daily participation. The students will participate in California's testing program called "Fitnessgram".

Science

The mission of the Science Department is to teach that God is the author of the truth concerning His Creation. The department seeks to instill an appreciation for what has been discovered and a passion to probe for a deeper understanding of God's creation. Realizing that science is limited to natural explanations for natural phenomena, students will be able to discern between facts and assumptions. The department will equip students with solid biblical and scientific foundations so they will be capable of engaging in an intelligent and logical dialogue about the moral and ethical questions that arise with each new scientific discovery in an ever-changing world.

Earth Science 6

Students will explore and experience a variety of areas within the discipline of Earth Science through reading, research, observation, experimentation, group projects, discussion, and application. Units of study include the methods of measurements of the scientist, Celestial Sphere, Atmosphere, Lithosphere, and Hydrosphere.

Life Science 7

This course is designed as a middle school survey course touching on the major areas of life science. The school year begins with an introduction to the foundations of science including scientific thinking and basic laboratory skills. The remainder of the first semester focuses on topics related to cell biology including cell structure and functions, photosynthesis and respiration, diffusion and osmosis, and the cell cycle. Second semester focuses on DNA, protein synthesis, genetics, creation/ evolution, and anatomy. Laboratory work includes studies with the microscope, plants, osmosis, the cell, cell processes, and a frog dissection. Lab write ups provide the opportunity for students to communicate their findings and analyze the results. Additional activities will model concepts and processes students learn in the different units. Students are required to do an outside science project and are encouraged to participate in the county science fair.

Physical Science 8

This course covers studies in basic chemistry and physics. The chemistry portion focuses on the properties and classification of matter and on the patterns of the periodic table. The students participate in various labs on classification of matter, chemical and physical properties, density, and chemical reactions. The physics curriculum includes the forces of motion, simple and complex machines, heat energy, electricity and magnetism, and fluids. These concepts are learned through a series of long-term projects, which include the design and construction of air powered paper airplanes, propeller powered balsa wood cars, and the building of electrical circuits on circuit boards based upon their schematics. Students sharpen their scientific inquiry and writing skills throughout the year as they learn how to gather and display data and write clear and concise conclusions based upon that data.

Social Studies

A Christian philosophy of the social sciences believes that God has always existed and that His creation of this world marked the beginning of human history. Furthermore, the biblical perspective strongly suggests that God exercises an ongoing role in the affairs of earth and the universe. The study therefore of the social sciences includes a search for explanations concerning the origins, purpose and destiny of the universe and earth's people as determined by God. The study of social sciences should be aimed at equipping students to be involved and informed citizens, good stewards of God's gifts, and to be concerned with the circumstances and ultimate course of the entire world. Students should be able to critically evaluate, analyze and make judgments of the past and current political, social and economic events in light of the Scriptures.

Social Studies 6

Ancient Civilizations and Geography is the focus of this course. Through interactive learning activities, students will explore the ancient world and its geographical components. Students will gain an understanding of the many varied cultures who coexisted between the dawn of human existence and the fall of Rome - from the early Egyptian civilization to the Greco-Roman world. We'll also cover the ancient world's geography, featuring its regions, major bodies of water, and mountains, as well as its varied habitats and climate features. We will place a special emphasis on the importance of the Bible through our exploration of these ancient civilizations, as we discuss its influence on their lives and their impact on the biblical narrative. By the end of this course, students will have a rich understanding of these civilizations and their fundamental contributions to modern history.

World History 7

Students actively participate in a one-year course study of the early civilizations of the world. Students will study the Roman and Byzantine Empires and the influence of their civilizations and Christianity throughout the surrounding continents. Students will study the development of Muslim dynasties in the Middle East, and the influence of their culture and Islam throughout the nearby regions. Students will discuss the growth of the Medieval Kingdoms of Africa and their rich culture and influences in trade, religion, and society. Students will study the Medieval dynasties of China and Medieval Japan, comparing their cultural developments and contributions to the world at the time and today. Finally, the students will study the growth and influence of the Church during the Middle Ages and various kingdoms of Medieval Europe which will lead them to the Renaissance, Reformation, and conclude with the Scientific Revolution and Age of Exploration. Students will grasp an understanding of historical tools (research, primary/secondary source reading, evidence-based arguments, etc.), comparative analysis of cultures, the dispersion of knowledge and ideas, as well as the progress of mankind until the 1700's. During the final quarter, students will transition to studying United States History, bridging the gap in world history between ancient and modern and covering the colonial and revolutionary eras of the United States.

US History 8

Students actively participate in a study of American history from the development of the Constitution through the early 20th century. Students will learn through lecture, discussion, reenactments, simulations, and cooperative learning. The focus of this course will examine some major moments of development, struggle, and resilience of the American spirit, as well as understanding our role as members of this country today. In addition, this class has the opportunity to attend a trip to Washington, D.C. where they will witness the history of this country first hand. This course will utilize a variety of primary and secondary documents.

Electives

Grade 6 | Year-Long Electives

Band (6,7,8)

This is a combination beginning/intermediate band class. This is for middle school beginners and sixth-graders continuing with their band instrument of choice. Beginning students must get started the summer prior to their first year and commit to one year of private lessons. Regular daily classes are held to develop the skills of the students on their instruments. There is a \$100 band booster fee per year.

Choir (6,7,8)

Students will learn the basics of good singing, breathing, posture, tone, diction, signs and symbols, dynamics and phrasing. This class is for the student who wants to feel more confident in their singing or develop their vocal talent. Advanced singers will have the opportunity to audition for solos. Music theory includes note and rhythm reading, intervals, signs, symbols, and dynamics. Emphasis is placed on good tone, blending and expressive singing. Repertoire includes traditional and contemporary Christian music, as well as popular and Broadway literature. The spring semester will include singing in small ensembles and participating in a music festival. Outfits required.

Color, Design & Draw

This course will include one semester of Color & Design and one semester of Drawing. In Color & Design, students will be exploring how to make their artistic expressions impactful by incorporating the element of design, as well as the components of color, using a variety of tools and materials. Drawing is a course designed to help students gain knowledge, build skills, and make discoveries that will influence their expression of ideas through drawing. Students will create compelling works using traditional drawing and printmaking techniques with graphite pencil, charcoal, colored pencil, oil pastel, ink, and mixed media. Students will also expand their knowledge and appreciation of art and culture through exposure to a variety of past and present works.

Spanish IA (6,7)

This introductory course is designed to give students the basic language tools for developing proficiency in using Spanish for communication. Focus is on the development of basic and relevant vocabulary, simple grammatical structures and an integrated approach to Hispanic cultures within a communicative framework. Students will be given the opportunity to practice all four language skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. They will grow in their ability to engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express their feelings and emotions and exchange opinions on a variety of topics including travel, school, family, clothing, sports, holidays, and food. They will also be able to present information, concepts and ideas in Spanish both orally and in writing; demonstrate their understanding of both written and spoken Spanish on a variety of topics; and express an understanding of and appreciation for the Spanish language and culture. Spanish 1 will be completed over a two-year period in order to form a solid foundation on which future language skills can build.

Student Council Leadership (6,7,8 selected)

If you desire to influence the activities, culture and heart of our Middle School, then Student Council is for you! This is a course for our appointed and/or elected student council representatives to grow in their leadership skills and spend time serving our school. Student Council Leadership is a course designed to create, govern and implement a wide variety of middle school activities from planning and running assemblies to hosting special spirit days. Students will continue building on their knowledge of what a true servant leader looks like as well as being given opportunities to work on small and large group communication, goal setting, and organizational skills.

VEX Robotics/Engineering

Robotics is not only the future, it is also the present. In the first semester of this course, students will learn to build and utilize robots with programming, sensors, and automation, while they hone critical computational thinking skills needed to succeed in both the 21st century's workforce and in everyday life. Beyond science and engineering principles, VEX Robotics solutions encourage creativity, teamwork, leadership, passion, and problem-solving among groups. Come be a part of Santa Fe's rapidly growing robotics community! The second semester will focus on Engineering. The course is all about building, creating, thinking critically and believing that you can find a solution. The beautiful thing about testing and building in science is that it is okay not to be right on the first try! Engineers build, test and retest their experiments over and over again until they get it right. Our class is going to become a dream team of innovators and creative thinkers in order to design and build various types of machines and phenomena.

MS Academic Support Program (ASP) – Study Skills (6,7,8)

The Academic Support Program provides services for our students with learning differences and/or ADHD. The ASP requires each student in the program to obtain a psycho-educational/diagnostic evaluation with a licensed diagnostician, renewing the test every three to five years (or by the student's Senior year for college transition). A formal accommodation document called the SFCS Learning Profile Accommodation Plan is written for each qualified student reflecting the data and recommendations found in the psycho-educational evaluation report. This confidential Learning Profile Accommodation Plan is given to the student's classroom teachers to implement the accommodations in their classrooms and is managed by the student's ASP Study Skills Teacher. (Qualified Non-ASP students may receive an SFCS Learning Profile Accommodation Plan after a psycho-educational evaluation is submitted to the ASP Director. The student and his/her parents will manage the accommodations with the classroom teachers.) The Academic Support Program's fee for the MS Study Skills Class for 2024-2025 is \$2395 per semester billed with SFCS tuition.

The ASP's MS Study Skills Class provides study skills instruction, biblical daily devotions, directed instructional support, strategic intervention, and accommodations in this Study Skills Class. Mentoring is provided to promote academic excellence, organization, and confidence in a Christ-centered environment. Extended time on tests and exams, along with other important accommodations, are awarded to students with documented learning differences. when recommended by the licensed diagnostician conducting the psycho-educational evaluation. Analysis of students' performance in all other classes is given each week. Regular report cards and weekly email contact with parents as well as collaboration with classroom teachers are part of this program.

Prerequisites: (1) Current Psycho-educational evaluation by a licensed Diagnostician (within past 3-5 years); (2) Acceptance into the SFCS Academic Support Program (ASP). See SFCS website for 2024-2025 ASP Application. Please send the completed application to Katie Pratt (ASP Director) at pratt@sfcs.net.

Grade 7–8 | Year-Long Electives

Band (6,7,8)

This is a combination beginning/intermediate band class. This is for middle school beginners and sixth graders continuing with their band instrument of choice. Beginning students must get started the summer prior to their first year and commit to one year of private lessons. Regular daily classes are held to develop the skills of the students on their instruments. There is a \$100 band booster fee per year.

US Concert Band (P)* (Approval required)

This class is for eighth- grade musicians performing at a high school level. A performance-oriented ensemble of wind and percussion players. Concert band members are students who have a minimum of two years' experience on a traditional band instrument. This band performs at Festivals and concerts as a concert band playing music from the classical concert band repertoire. Students also learn how to interpret correct jazz phrasing, articulation and style; how to improvise (make-up) jazz melodies, riffs, and licks; how to play by ear as well as read music; and how to fit into a jazz combo or jazz big band. *There is a \$120 band booster fee per year. Prerequisite: each player must meet the standards set by the band director.*

Choir (6,7,8)

Students will learn the basics of good singing, breathing, posture, tone, diction, signs and symbols, dynamics, and phrasing. This class is for the student who wants to feel more confident in their singing or develop their vocal talent. Advanced singers will have the opportunity to audition for solos. Music theory includes note and rhythm reading, intervals, signs, symbols, and dynamics. Emphasis is placed on good tone, blending and expressive singing. Repertoire includes traditional and contemporary Christian music, as well as popular and Broadway literature. The spring semester will include singing in small ensembles and participating in a music festival. Outfits required.

French I(P)* (8)

French I is an introductory course designed to give students the basic language tools for developing proficiency in using French for communication. Students will be given the opportunity to practice all four language skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking as they begin to develop their interpersonal, interpretive and presentational abilities. They will engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express their feelings and emotions and exchange opinions on a variety of topics including travel, school, family, clothing, sports, holidays, and food. They will be able to present information, concepts, and ideas in French both orally and in writing; demonstrate their basic understanding of both written and spoken French on a variety of topics; and express an understanding of and appreciation for the French language and culture.

Math Problem Solving (7,8)

Students can explore and learn math concepts by solving fun and challenging mathematics problems. There is also a focus on learning Combinatorics or advanced counting strategies. Combinatorics problems often appear on national exams such as the SAT and American Mathematics Competition (AMC), but the topic gets very little coverage in middle school or high school mathematics classes. It is recommended that students have earned an 85% or above in

their previous math class. Here is a sample of student reviews for this elective: “If you like challenges and solving real world problems, take it”, “You will learn tons of math and great solving skills for the future.” “Take it, it’s awesome.”

Spanish IA (6,7)

This introductory course is designed to give students the basic language tools for developing proficiency in using Spanish for communication. Focus is on the development of basic and relevant vocabulary, simple grammatical structures and an integrated approach to Hispanic cultures within a communicative framework. Students will be given the opportunity to practice all four language skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. They will grow in their ability to engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express their feelings and emotions and exchange opinions on a variety of topics including travel, school, family, clothing, sports, holidays, and food. They will also be able to present information, concepts and ideas in Spanish both orally and in writing; demonstrate their understanding of both written and spoken Spanish on a variety of topics; and express an understanding of and appreciation for the Spanish language and culture. Spanish 1 will be completed over a two-year period in order to form a solid foundation on which future language skills can build.

Spanish IB (P)* (7,8)

This course is the second half of Spanish IA and will provide a solid foundation for Spanish II. This course reviews and builds upon the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills introduced in their first year of Spanish IA, as the students continue to develop their interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational abilities. Focus will remain on the development of basic and relevant vocabulary, simple grammatical structures, and an integrated approach to Hispanic cultures within a communicative framework. Students will continue to grow in their ability to engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express their feelings and emotions and exchange opinions on a variety of topics. Prerequisite: Spanish IA

Spanish II(P)* (8)

Spanish II reviews and builds upon the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills introduced in Spanish I, as students continue to develop their interpersonal, interpretive and presentational abilities. More time is devoted to reading and writing than at the first-year level, and grammar study becomes more detailed. Students will develop additional reading skills as they explore a variety of short stories, poems, news articles and other reading material. Speaking skills are further developed as students practice telling stories, participate in dialogues and relate basic information. Students will develop more flexibility in communication as the vocabulary base and understanding of grammar are expanded, particularly in the second semester with the introduction of the Spanish subjunctive. In addition, students will grow in their understanding of and appreciation for Spanish-speaking cultures as they are exposed to a wide variety of internet resources. Prerequisite: Spanish IB

Student Council Leadership (6,7,8 selected)

If you desire to influence the activities, culture and heart of our Middle School, then Student Council is for you! This is a course for our appointed and/or elected student council representatives to grow in their leadership skills and spend time serving our school. Student Council Leadership is a course designed to create, govern and implement a wide variety of middle school activities from planning and running assemblies to hosting special spirit days. Students will continue building on their knowledge of what a true servant leader looks like as well as being given opportunities to work on small and large group communication, goal setting, and organizational skills.

Yearbook (7,8)

MS Yearbook is a year-long opportunity for students to work together as a team to create, capture, and share an annual Yearbook that reflects the heart of their MS school year. Students will learn to conceptualize and integrate a theme, tell a story through photography, learn basic graphic design skills as well as master online editing tools. Join our team and experience a fun, collaborative and creative classroom environment while working hard toward one purposeful goal – production of the annual yearbook! Upon completion of the yearbook, students will explore digital newsletter platforms and build journalism skills while creating a weekly newsletter highlighting the happenings of MS life.

MS Academic Support Program (ASP) – Study Skills (6,7,8)

The SFC Academic Support Program (ASP) is committed to providing academic study tools and a supportive environment for students with special learning needs to assist them in becoming more successful and independent learners. The ASP teacher supports, encourages, and trains the student with respect, strategic intervention, and Christian compassion. The Academic Support Program provides services for our students with learning differences and/or ADHD. The ASP requires each student in the program to obtain a psycho-educational evaluation with a licensed diagnostician, renewing the test every three years. A formal accommodation document called the SFC Learning Profile Accommodation Plan is given to each qualified student once a psycho-educational evaluation report is submitted to Mrs. Katie Pratt. This confidential Learning Profile Accommodation Plan is given to the student's classroom teachers to implement the accommodations in their classrooms and is managed by the student's ASP Study Skills Teacher. *(Qualified Non-ASP students may receive an SFC Learning Profile Accommodation Plan once a psycho-educational evaluation is submitted to Director Katie Pratt, and the student and his/her parents will manage the accommodations with the classroom teachers).*

The ASP provides study skills instruction, directed tutoring, academic support, and intervention in this daily Study Skills Class. Mentoring is provided to promote academic excellence, organization, and confidence in a Christ-centered environment. Extended time on tests and exams, along with other important accommodations, are awarded to students with documented learning differences, when recommended by the licensed diagnostician conducting the psycho-educational evaluation. Analysis of student's performance in all other classes is given each week. Regular report cards and contact with parents and teachers is part of this program. The Study Skills Class earns a letter grade that is counted in the GPA. The Academic Support Program's fee for the Study Skills Class for 2024-2025 is \$2395 per semester billed with SFCS tuition.

Prerequisites: (1) Current Psycho-educational evaluation by a licensed Diagnostician (within past three years); (2) Acceptance into the SFC Academic Support Program (ASP). See SFC.net for ASP Application. Please send completed application to Katie Pratt (Director of ASP) at pratt@SFC.net.

Grade 7–8 | One Semester Electives

Director's Workshop/Broadcast (7,8)

This semester elective will focus on the artistic minds that work behind the scenes! If you have a creative side and love to think outside the box, this class is for you! Directors in many areas need to have organizational skills,

leadership skills, problem solving skills, and a mind determined to make it work. Come join us for a semester of fun in three areas of direction that will include our middle school broadcast! In our theater unit, we'll focus on the stage. In our television/movie unit, you will take your directing skills to the next level as you consider camera angles, lighting, time lining, script writing, and more. Finally, in our broadcast unit, we'll utilize all of these skills, while also learning the basics of the SFC TV studio. New and returning directing students are welcome.

VEX Robotics (7,8)

Robotics is not only the future, it is also the present. Learn to build and utilize robots with programming, sensors, and automation, while you hone critical computational thinking skills needed to succeed in both the 21st century's workforce and in everyday life. Beyond science and engineering principles, VEX Robotics solutions encourage creativity, teamwork, leadership, passion, and problem-solving among groups. Come be a part of Santa Fe's rapidly growing robotics community!

Grade 7-8 | One Quarter Electives

Acting (Grades 7,8)

Acting is the emphasis. We will learn basic acting technique including objective, obstacle, tactics, blocking, stage presence, ensemble building, pure improv, and audition techniques. This class is participation-based and includes many drama activities and games to introduce and hone skills. Students will perform in short comic and dramatic scenes at the end of the semester to demonstrate understanding of the material.

Boys Action Packed PE Games (Boys, 7,8)

The Boys PE Elective is based on our MAFU principles (Mental Toughness, Attitude, Fanatical Effort, Unity/Unselfishness). The class will be built on competition highlighted by tournaments as well as individual challenges. We will play some traditional games as well as many variations of games that work on athletes' coordination, teamwork, and competitive spirit. This will be a fun class allowing young men the opportunity to compete and be active during the school day. This elective course will be in addition to the boys' required two days of Physical Education.

Boys Basketball PE (Boys, 7,8)

This class is a foundational instruction class for SFC basketball. The class will focus on skills and techniques used to prepare students for high school basketball. Specific schemes used by the Varsity and JV SFC Basketball program will be introduced. Course will be taught by coaches in the high school program. This elective course will be in addition to the boys' required two days of Physical Education.

Boys Football PE (Boys, 7,8)

This class is a non-contact instructional class intended to prepare students for SFC high school football. Focus will be developing skills and techniques universal to the game of football. Students will also be introduced to the basic Offense and Defense used by the SFC high school football program. This class will be taught by Varsity coaches. This elective course will be in addition to the boys' required two days of Physical Education.

Co-ed Volleyball (7,8)

If you love to play volleyball or just want to learn to play a new game, then you will enjoy this class. The students will learn to play all the variations of Volleyball from 6-Man to Doubles. The class will focus on the skills and techniques used to prepare students for “Indoor” as well as “Beach” high school volleyball. Activities include King/Queen of the Court, High Five, Quick Serve, Speed ball, and other player favorites. This elective course will be in addition to the required two days of Physical Education for girls or boys.

Creative Writing (7,8)

Are you the next J.K. Rowling or Rick Riordan? Do you love to paint using your words? Then Creative Writing is where you belong! Join us for fun as we jot, journal, and enjoy our way to good writing. Explore your world through exciting and fun writing projects as we learn to see and experience that world in a new way. Whether you've been working on a story for years or you've never written one before, this class is for you!

Drawing (7,8)

Drawing is a course designed to help students gain knowledge, build skills and make discoveries that will influence their expression of ideas through drawing. Students will create works of art using traditional drawing and printmaking techniques with graphite pencil, charcoal, colored pencil, oil pastel, ink, and mixed media. Students will also expand their knowledge and appreciation of art and culture through art criticism and exposure to a variety of past and present works.

Engineering (7,8)

God put together the Earth and it screams of His creativity. That same creativity lives within us, we just have to believe it! This class is all about building, creating, thinking critically and believing that you can find a solution. The beautiful thing about testing and building in science is that it is okay not to be right on the first try! Engineers build, test and retest their experiments over and over again until they get it right. Our class is going to become a dream team of innovators and creative thinkers in order to design and build various types of machines and phenomena.

Entrepreneurship & Stock Market Game (7,8)

Learn the ins and outs of running a business! Tracking inventory, balancing the books and servicing customers are all aspects that every good business must pay close attention to. Learn how an ever-changing world has ever-changing demands and about the people whose ideas launch businesses to meet those demands. Also, we'll track your personal gains and losses using stock simulators. You'll develop a better understanding of when to buy and sell stock holdings. Learn to navigate the stock market without risking a penny of your own money.

Faith Hall of Fame (7,8)

This course allows students to adventure through some of the most exemplary stories of faith in the Old Testament! Students will deep dive into Hebrews 11 by returning to the book of Genesis, Exodus and more! Students will connect these examples of faith to other historical figures and significant people within their personal lives. As students journey through the Faith Hall of Fame, they too will have the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences with putting their hope and trust in God. Stories will be shared, scripture will be brought to life, and students will learn more about the incredible gift of being in relationship with the God of the Universe.

Girls Action Packed PE Games (Girls, 7,8)

This class includes your favorite PE, Camp and Retreat games. Activities include but are not limited to: Hunger Games, War Ball, Friendly Ball, Crazy Kickball, Speedball Volleyball, Home Run Derby, Dodgeball, Capture the flag, Gatorball, World Cup Soccer, Over the line, Philly Football, Floor Hockey, Speedminton, Ultimate Frisbee, Squirrel Ball, Knockout, Bickley Ball, A-Ball 16, Volley Tennis, Go for the Gold, Fiddle Stix Lacrosse, and more. This elective course will be in addition to the girls' required two days of Physical Education.

Girls Beach Games (Girls, 7,8)

This class will be held at Del Mar North Beach "Dog Beach" and it includes your favorite Beach games. Activities include but are not limited to: Beach Volleyball, Soccer, Capture the flag, Over the Line, Squirrel Ball, Ultimate Frisbee, Gatorball, Spud, Power walk/jog to Fletcher's cove, and many more. This elective course will be in addition to the girls' required two days of Physical Education.

Girls Identity & Sisterhood (Girls, 7,8)

Who am I? The goal of this creative and fun elective is to create girl-unity through an exploration of our identity. If we know who we are in Christ—that we are TREASURED, SACRED, and CALLED--then we can pour ourselves positively into the world around us. Come and explore how we can be confident in our God-given identity, in our gifts, and in the greatness God has gifted each of us uniquely. Using music, art, crafts, journaling, media and much more, this class will study a girl's relationship with Christ and how that relationship influences her role in current culture, in friendships, in media, and much more! Come join the sisterhood!

Improv Theatre (7,8)

Based on the techniques used in Comedy Sportz, we will learn basic improv principles including story-telling, justification, back story, name-it, show don't tell, give and take, etc. Games introduced in this class include: Blind Line, Dr. Know-it all, What Are You Doing, Slow-mo Olympics, Whatchyou got?, Try That on for Size, Dime Store Novel, etc. Students will perform a short improv "match" for another class to demonstrate knowledge of skills learned.

Inside the Middle School Brain (7,8)

Have you ever wondered what makes you so impulsive? Or why you have such a hard time paying attention during class? Or maybe why math comes easy to some and is so much harder for others? In this elective, we will perform a deep dive into the introductory principles of psychology, development, and cognition. We will combine physical experiences like brain dissections with mental explorations like personality/aptitude tests. Our hope is to leave with a greater understanding of what really makes the middle school student tick. Join us in learning more about how your brain works, how you learn, and who you are!

Life Hacks (7,8) *New for 24-25*

Life Hacks is a practical elective designed to equip middle school students with fundamental life skills essential for navigating the complexities of future adulthood. Over the span of nine weeks, students will explore a wide range of practical topics including career exploration, personal finance management, social etiquette, emergency preparation strategies, and more!

Logical Fallacies and Other Foolish Thinking (7,8) *New for 24-25*

A philosopher once said, “Ideas have consequences.” And consequences can lead to human flourishing, but also create chaos when based on illogical premises. So, how can you spot bad thinking? *Logical Fallacies* is a course that is designed to uncover the error and discover how to respond with both truth and grace. Content is delivered through lively discourse, games, debate, and class activities as common informal fallacies are explored in order to strengthen students’ aptitude for reason. Have fun and avoid the fallout of fallacy follies!

Marine Biology (7,8)

On the 5th day God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures.” In this course students will explore the amazing world that lives right off our coast. We will learn about the visible and invisible creatures, from plankton to whale sharks and everything in between. We will discover the beauty and importance of the kelp forest and how we use this vital resource in our everyday lives. We will visit our local tide pools and the Birch Aquarium. Students will experience a hands-on, and sometimes wet, science lab course designed to excite and create an appreciation for the ocean and its creatures.

Painting (7,8)

Students will concentrate on the essential elements of painting, along with materials, methods, and craft. This course will lead students through a variety of exercises, applications, and projects that explore the multidimensional properties of acrylic and watercolor painting. The basic components of color theory will also be introduced and investigated. Students will build their knowledge of history and techniques, including the impact of technology on contemporary painting.

Photo and Design (7,8)

This one semester course introduces students to the fundamentals of basic photography and digital imagery. Students will learn the basic elements of composition and theme while developing an eye for artistic expression and aesthetic valuing in photography. The basic elements and principles of design are introduced as students use their photos to create art. Instruction will include basics of photography, picture management and manipulation (cropping, resizing, brightness, contrast), how to import, organize, edit, print, and share digital photos, and design principles and concepts.

Printmaking (7,8)

Printmaking is a hands-on elective focusing on the basics of relief, screen, and intaglio printmaking techniques. Emphasis will be placed on the cultural and aesthetic foundations of printmaking and their connections to people, art and fashion. Students will experience various processes of printing images on paper, wood, metal, cloth and stone.

Sculpture (7,8)

This is a hands-on class where students create freestanding, three dimensional works of art using sculptural techniques along with an introduction to ceramics. Materials will be carved, modeled, molded, cast, assembled, or otherwise shaped and combined. Students will also expand their knowledge and appreciation of art and culture through art criticism and exposure to a variety of past and present sculptural works.



Speech and Debate (7,8) *New for 24-25*

Speech and Debate is an elective that tackles one of people’s greatest fears...public speaking. However, once you have the tools and practice, public speaking no longer has to be a fear; rather, it can be one of your greatest strengths. Learn how to persuade, inspire, and inform an audience through the art of public speaking. By learning debate techniques and strategies, students will be able to win their argument, whether it is prepared or off-the-cuff. Ultimately, we will seek to follow Peter’s instruction to “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” (I Peter 3:15)

Surf, Skate, Snow (7,8)

Students will explore the history, design, and science behind some of California’s most popular board sports. We will look at the origins of these great sports and what has prompted changes in board design including advancements in technology and the science that drives it all. Meet and visit some influential pioneers that live, work and play in our own backyard! Determine how you might become a part of these ever-evolving sports in the future.